



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

37
JUNE

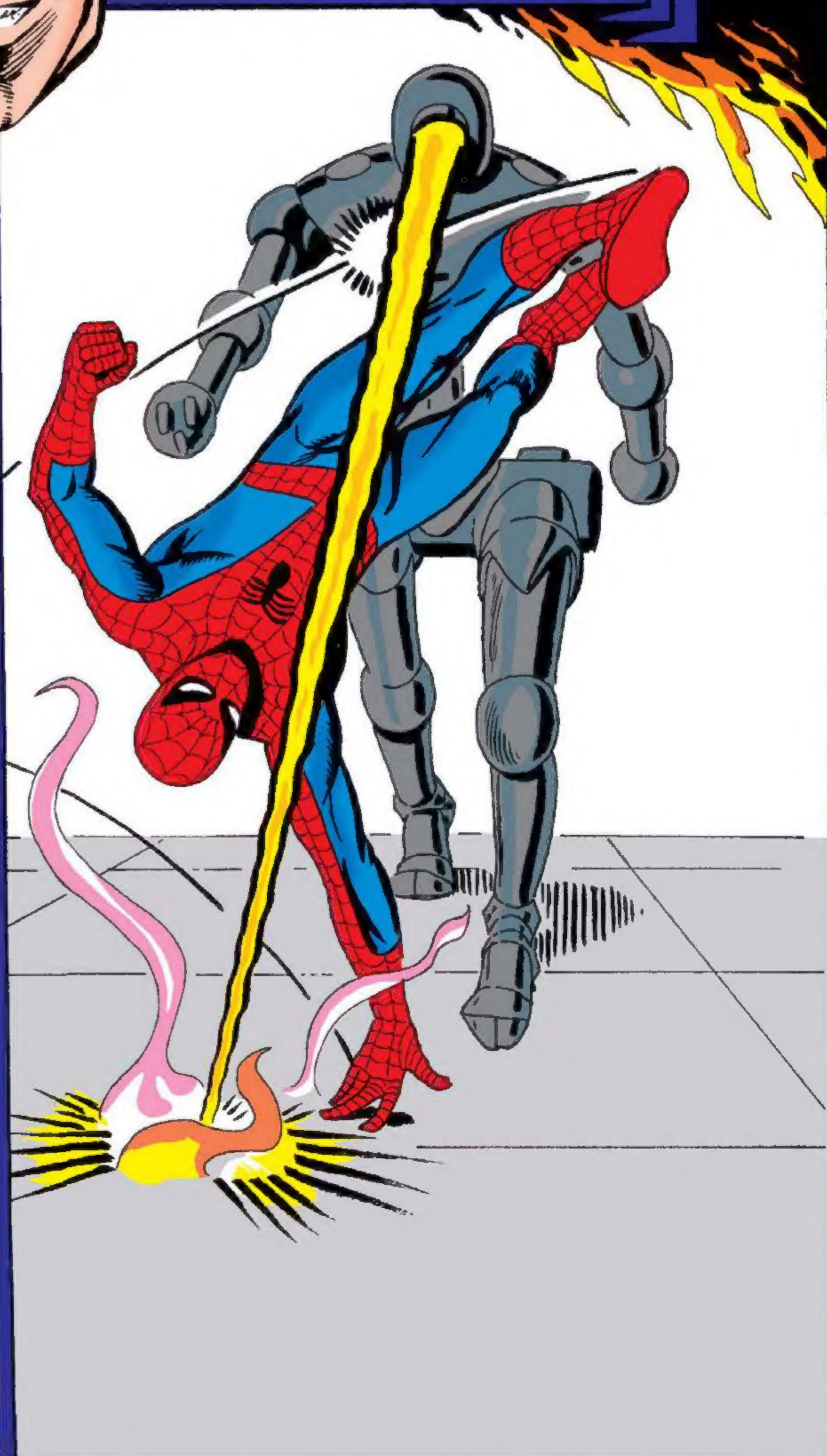
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IND.

"ONCE
UPON A
TIME..."

...THERE
WAS A
ROBOT!"



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"ONCE UPON A
TIME, THERE
WAS A ROBOT...!"

WE HATE TO BRAG, BUT...

...THIS
ONE'S A
DOOZY!



EDITED AND WRITTEN
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STAN LEE

PLOTTED AND DRAWN
BY:
STEVE DITKO

LETTERED AND CHERISHED
BY:
ARTIE SIMEK

BEHIND THE COLD, CLAMMY, CONFINING WALLS OF STATE PRISON, A VOICE UTTERS SIX WELCOME WORDS...

PROFESSOR STROMM, YOUR SENTENCE IS OVER!



YOU'VE BEEN A MODEL PRISONER FOR TEN YEARS! GOOD LUCK ON THE OUTSIDE, PROFESSOR!

THANKS!

SURE, I'VE BEEN A MODEL PRISONER! I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT PLAN MY REVENGE ALL THAT TIME!



THEN, NO SOONER DOES PROFESSOR STROMM PUT THE IRON GATES BEHIND HIM, WHEN...

GLAD TO SEE YA, STROMM! I GOT EVERYTHING ALL SET, LIKE YOU WANTED!

DO NOT FORGET YOURSELF, MAX! YOU WILL ALWAYS ADDRESS ME AS PROFESSOR!



BUT, OTHER EYES OBSERVE THE FATEFUL MEETING -- THE EYES OF AN EX-CON TURNED REPORTER, NAMED FOSWELL...

I KNEW MY OLD CELL-MATE WOULD BE GETTING OUT TODAY!

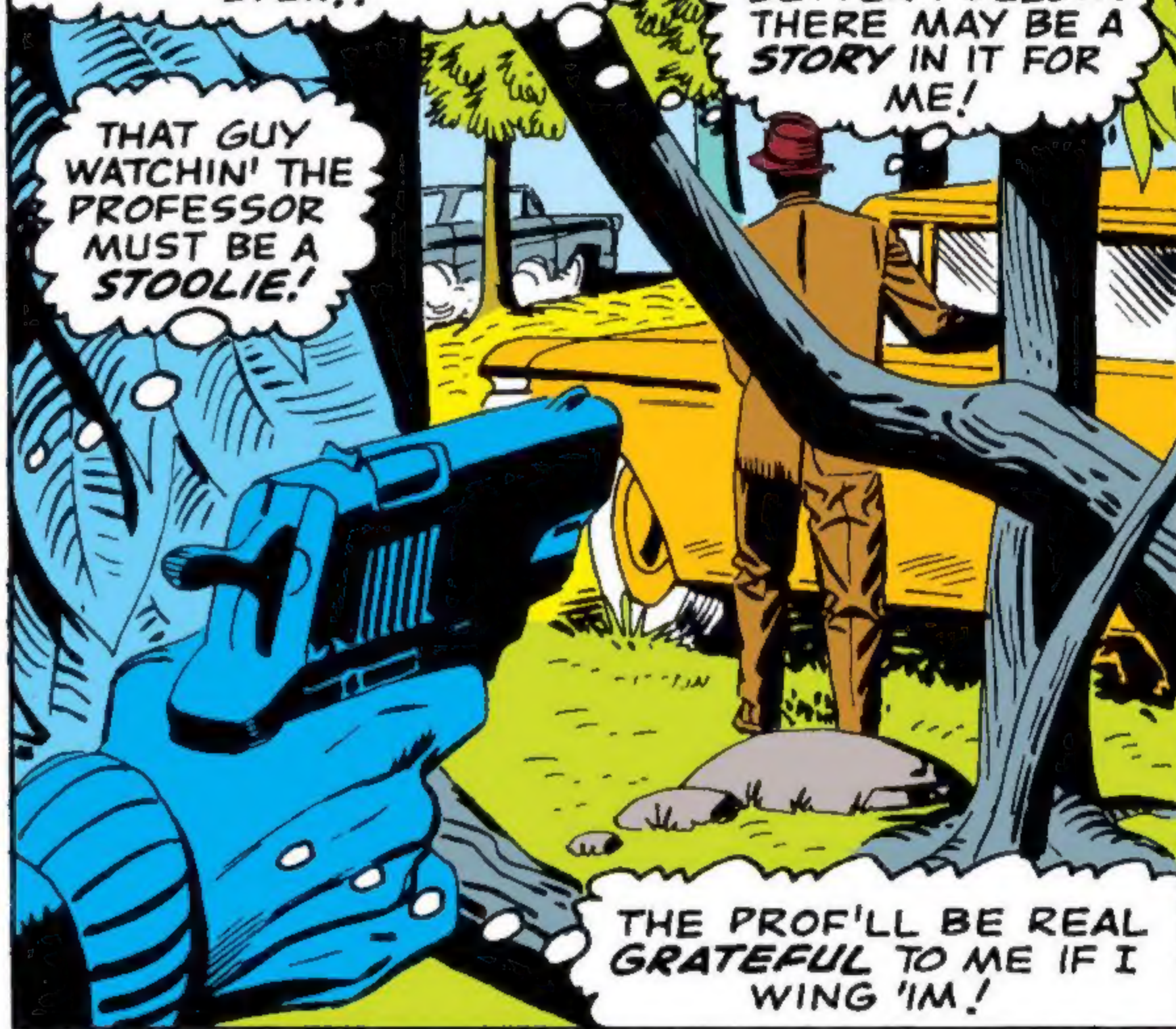
HE'S BEING PICKED UP BY ANOTHER EX-INMATE NAMED MAX YOUNG! THEY MUST HAVE MADE SOME PLANS WHILE IN PRISON!



I WONDER IF HE'S STILL AS HUNGRY FOR REVENGE AS EVER!?

THEY'RE HEADING FOR TOWN! I'D BETTER FOLLOW! THERE MAY BE A STORY IN IT FOR ME!

THAT GUY WATCHIN' THE PROFESSOR MUST BE A STOOIE!



THE PROF'LL BE REAL GRATEFUL TO ME IF I WING 'IM!

HOWEVER, BEFORE A SHOT CAN BE FIRED--

WHOA THERE, SONNY BOY!

IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW IT, THIS IS A NO-NOISE ZONE!



SPIDER-MAN!

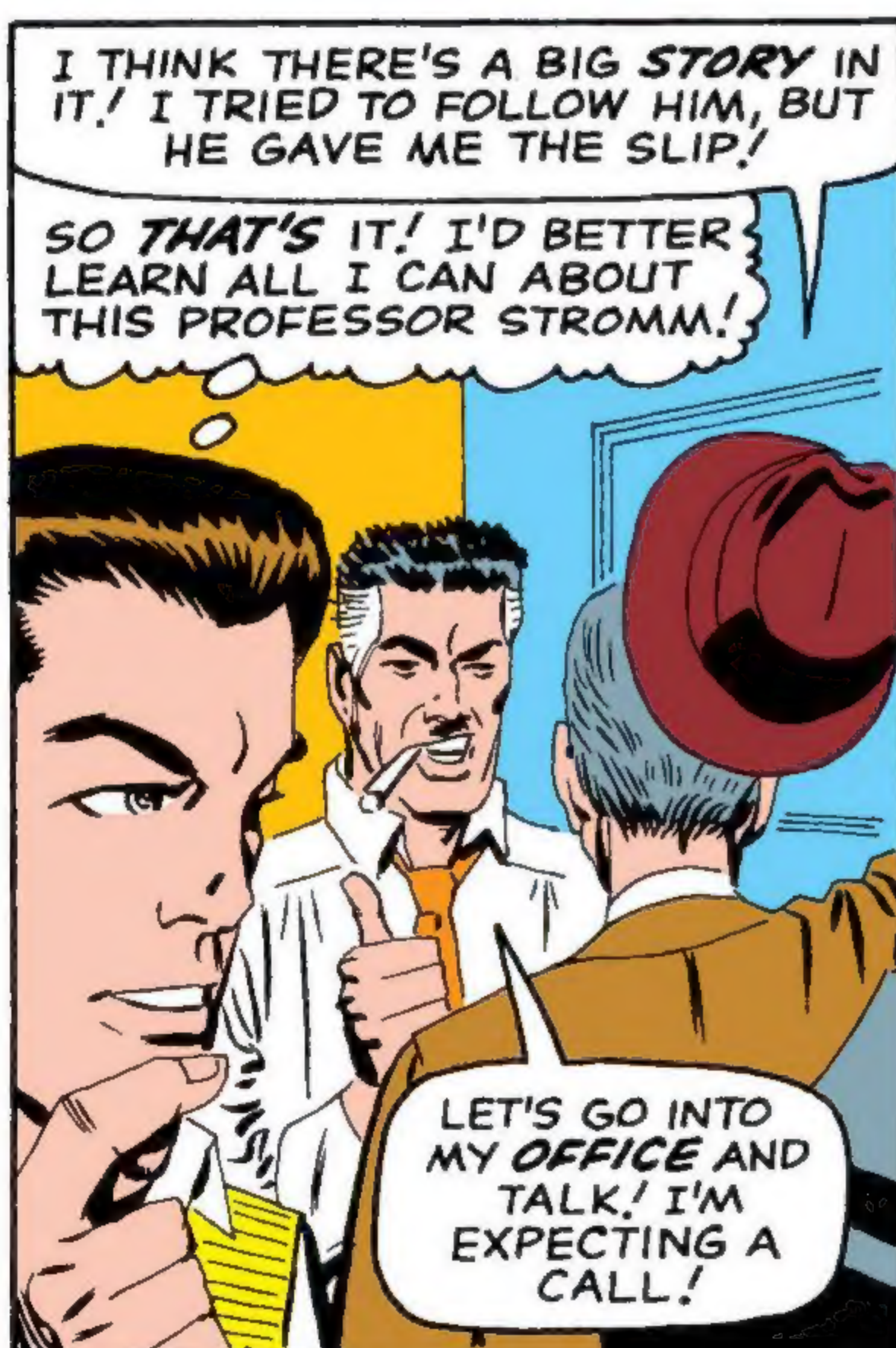
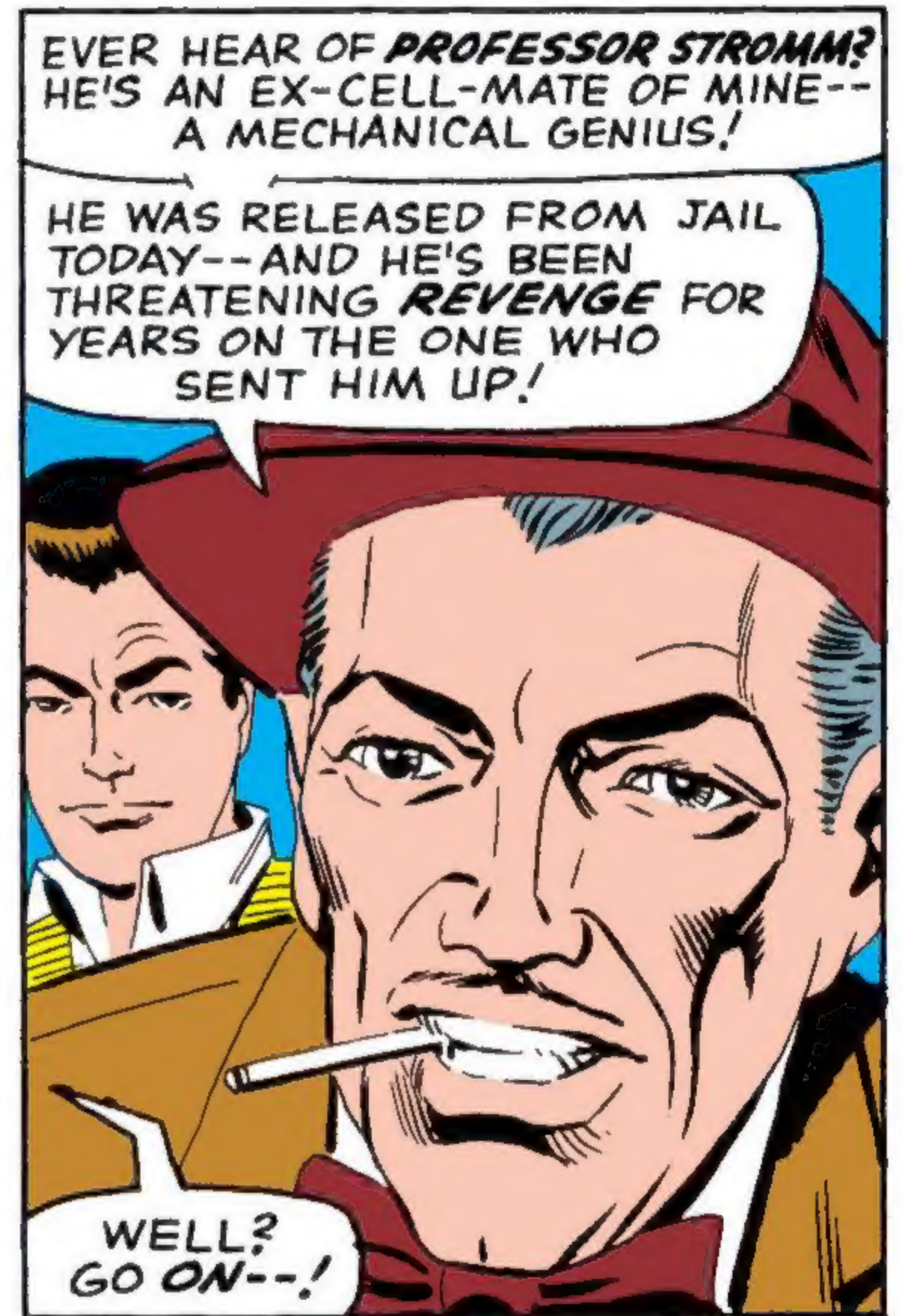
AWW--AND I WANTED IT TO BE A SURPRISE!

OKAY, TALK! WHY'D YOU TRY TO VENTILATE FOSWELL?

I SAID TALK!







NOW, LET'S SWITCH OUR SCENE TO THE MAN IN WHOM EVERYONE SEEMS SO INTERESTED, AS WE VISIT THE WELL-EQUIPPED HIDEOUT OF PROFESSOR STROMM...

I BOUGHT ALL THE GADGETS YOU WANTED WITH THE DOUGH YOU HAD STASHED AWAY, PROFESSOR! ANYTHING *ELSE* YOU NEED?

NO! THIS IS *PERFECT*! I WILL NOT NEED YOU AGAIN UNTIL THE *ROBOT* IS FINISHED!

GO HOME, AND WAIT FOR MY CALL, MAX!

FOR *TEN YEARS* I DREAMED OF THIS MOMENT! I DREAMED OF GETTING MY *REVENGE* ON THE MAN WHO CHEATED ME OUT OF MY INVENTIONS!

AS HE HAS RUINED MY LIFE, SO SHALL I RUIN *HIM*!

AND, WHILE THE PROFESSOR PLOTS, PETER PARKER HEADS FOR SCHOOL, AS USUAL...

I WONDER IF *GWEN STACEY* IS STILL MAD AT ME?

WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...

HI, GWEN! WE'RE BOTH HEADING FOR THE SAME CLASS--MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*, MR. PARKER--*SLUMMING*? USUALLY YOU'RE TOO *STUCK UP* TO SAY HELLO TO ANYONE!

WELL, AT LEAST I'M NOT A TEMPERAMENTAL FEMALE WHO DROOLS OVER A FELLA *ONE* DAY AND THEN ACTS LIKE AN *ICICLE* TO HIM THE *NEXT*!

DRAT THAT CRAZY *TEMPER* OF MINE! NOW I'VE *REALLY* PUT MY FOOT IN IT!

EVEN IF YOU *ARE* E. S. U.'S NEWEST SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP WHIZ-KID, *NOBODY* TALKS TO *ME* THAT WAY...

C'MON, GWEN--SIMMER DOWN! LET'S BURY THE HATCHET, HUH?

YOU THINK YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU *WANT* TO ME, AND THEN--*OWWW*!

ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOU'RE *GORRRRGEIOUS* WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY?

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON THERE! I *SAW* THAT, PARKER!

I KNOW, I KNOW! THOSE BEADY, LITTLE, PIG-LIKE EYES OF YOURS NEVER MISS A TRICK, FLASH!

I'LL MAKE YOU *EAT* THOSE WORDS, YOU PUNY PUNK!



C'MON, C'MON! PUT UP YOUR HANDS!

OH! IF I ONLY DARED! JUST **ONCE!**
BUT, WITH MY SPIDER STRENGTH, I'M LIABLE TO ACCIDENTALLY **HURT** HIM, NO MATTER HOW CAREFUL I AM!

SORRY, FLASH-- I CAN'T LET YOU DO IT--!



IF YOU DAMAGED MY **PROFILE**, HALF THE GIRLS AT E.S.U. WOULD BE HEART-BROKEN! WE CAN'T LET **THAT** HAPPEN!

YOU YELLOW FINK! I **KNEW** YOU'D CHICKEN OUT!

OH, LET HIM GO, FLASH!



OKAY, DOLL! BUT IF HE BOTHERS YOU **AGAIN**, JUST LEMME KNOW!

I'D BET MY BOTTOM DOLLAR THAT PETER PARKER WASN'T THE LEAST **BIT** SCARED OF FLASH!



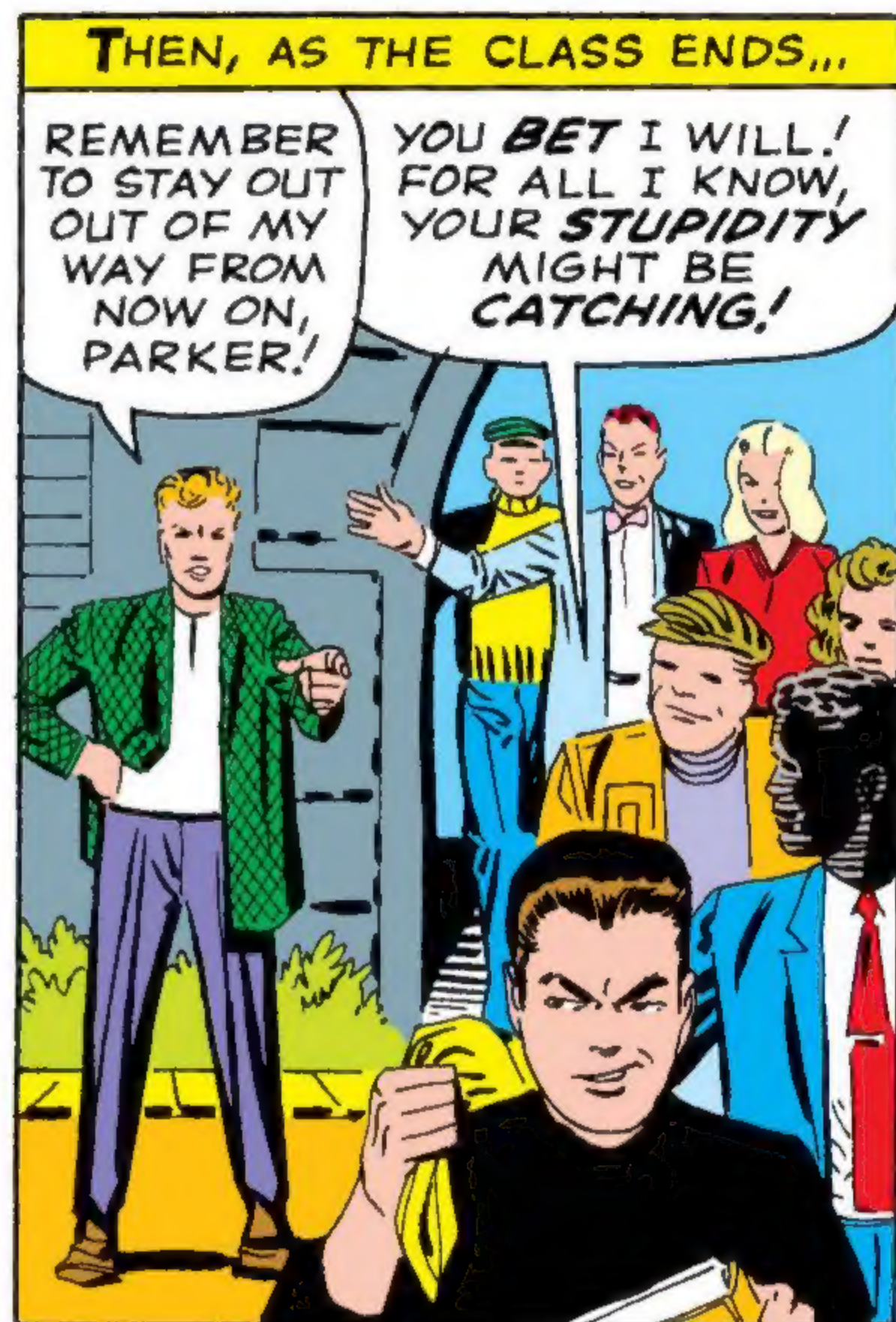
I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, GWEN! PARKER GIVES **ME** A SWIFT PAIN, TOO!

OH, YOU HAVEN'T ANY USE FOR **ANYONE** WHO'S **SMARTER** THAN YOU ARE, HARRY! PETER'S NEVER BOTHERED YOU!



WHAT'S THE **MATTER** WITH ME?? I'M ACTUALLY STARTING TO **DEFEND** HIM!

BOY! IF **UNPOPULARITY** EVER BECAME POPULAR, I'D BE **TOP MAN** AROUND HERE!



THEN, AS THE CLASS ENDS...

REMEMBER TO STAY OUT OF MY WAY FROM NOW ON, PARKER!

YOU **BET** I WILL! FOR ALL I KNOW, YOUR **STUPIDITY** MIGHT BE **CATCHING!**



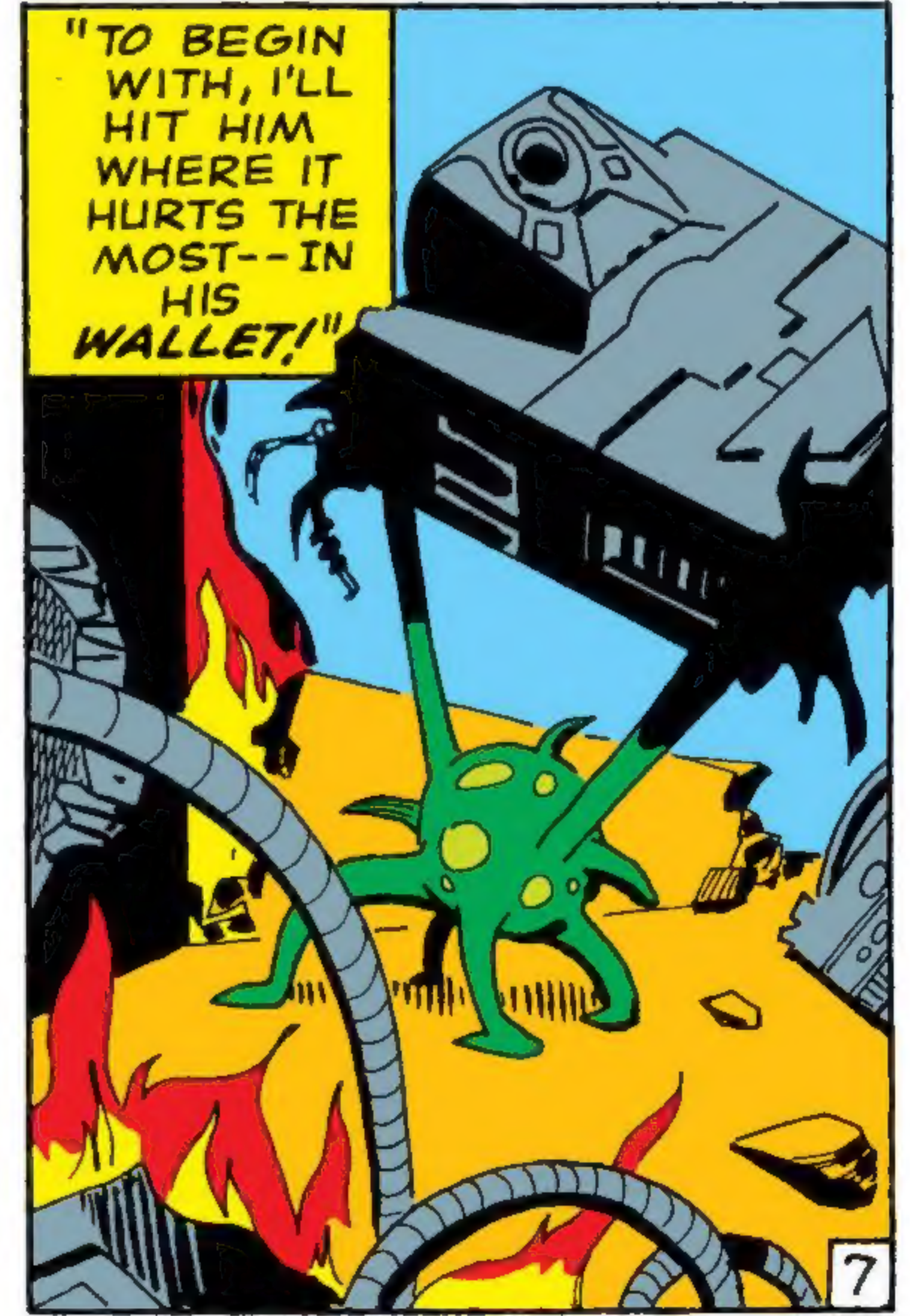
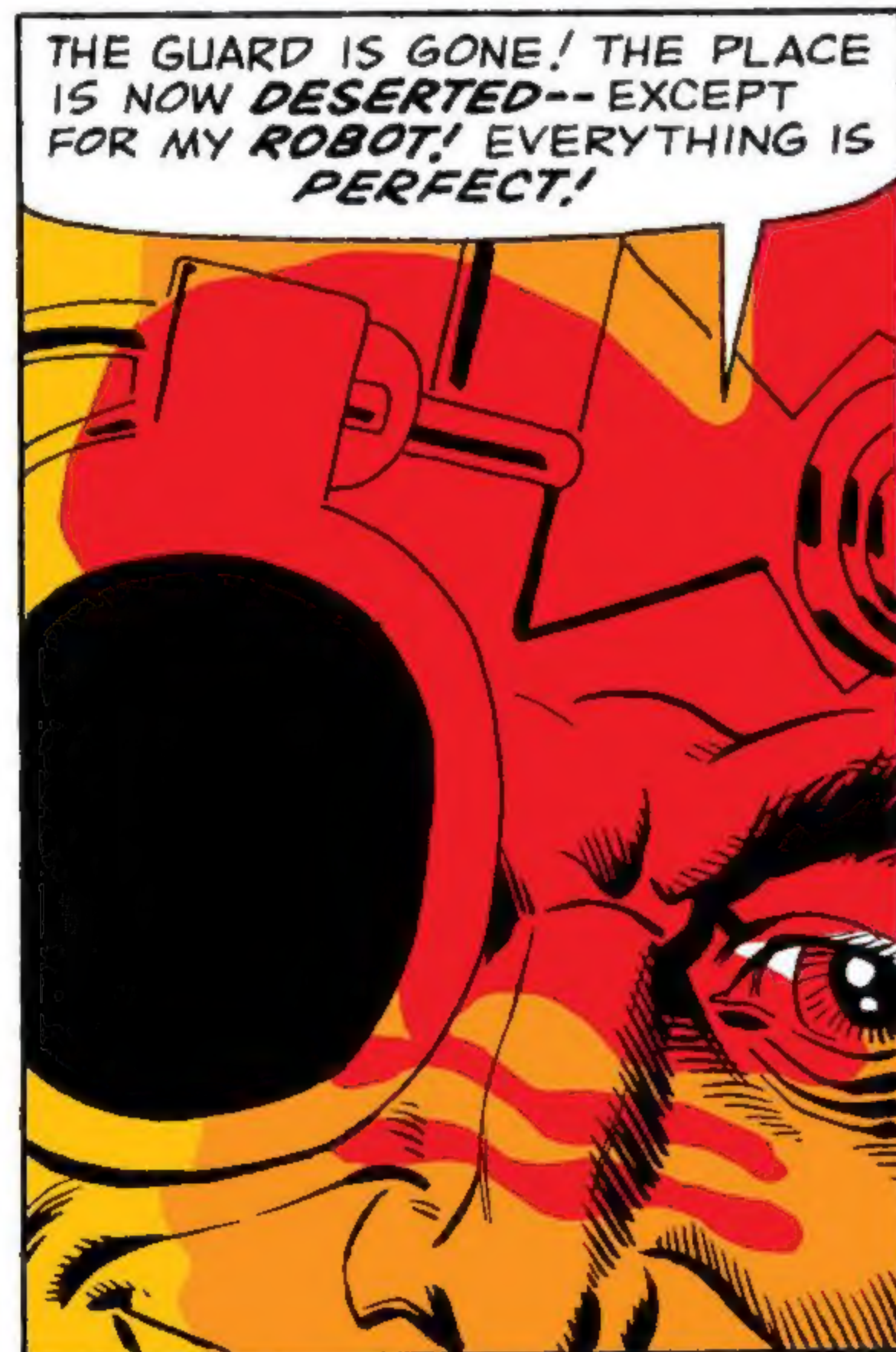
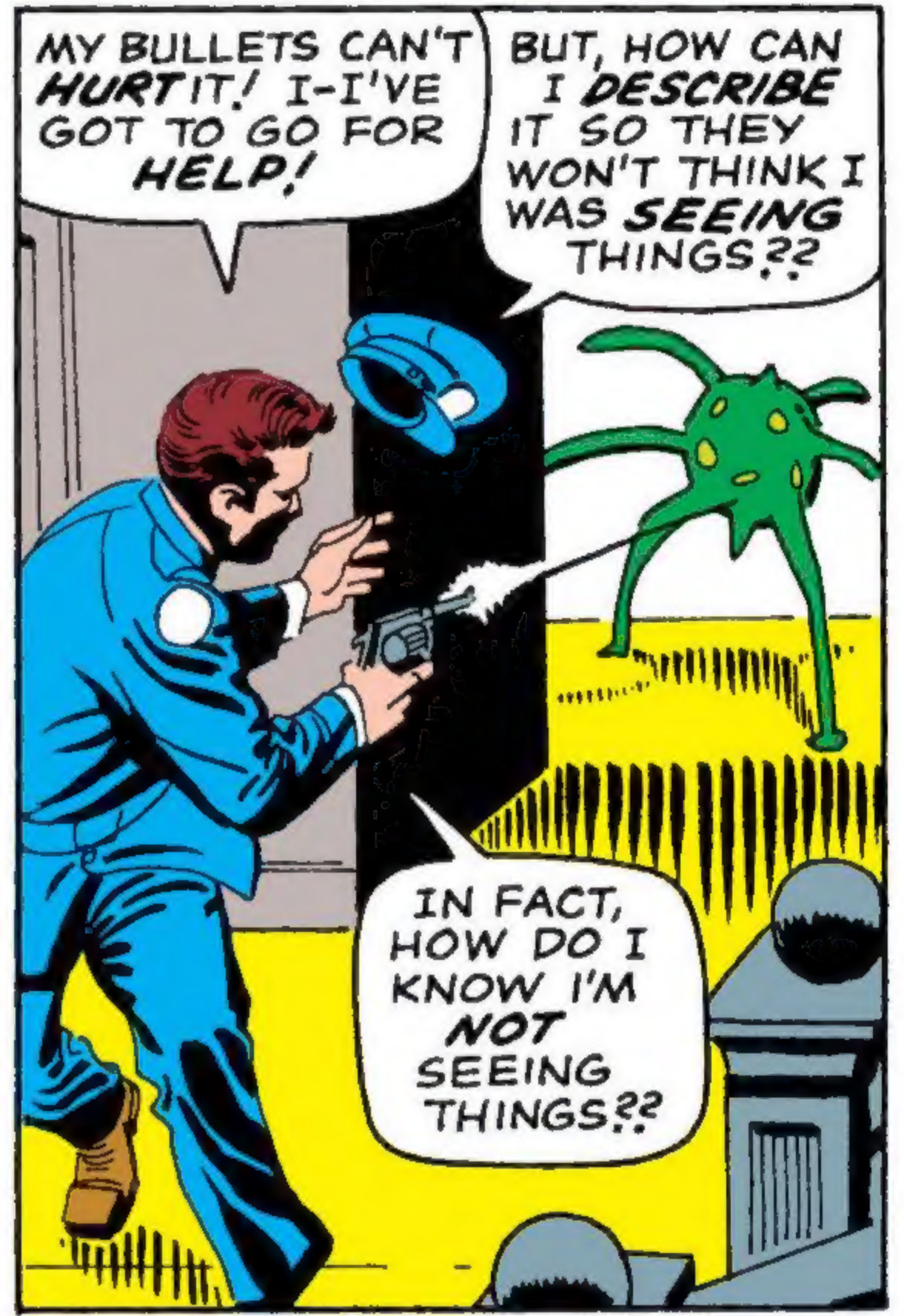
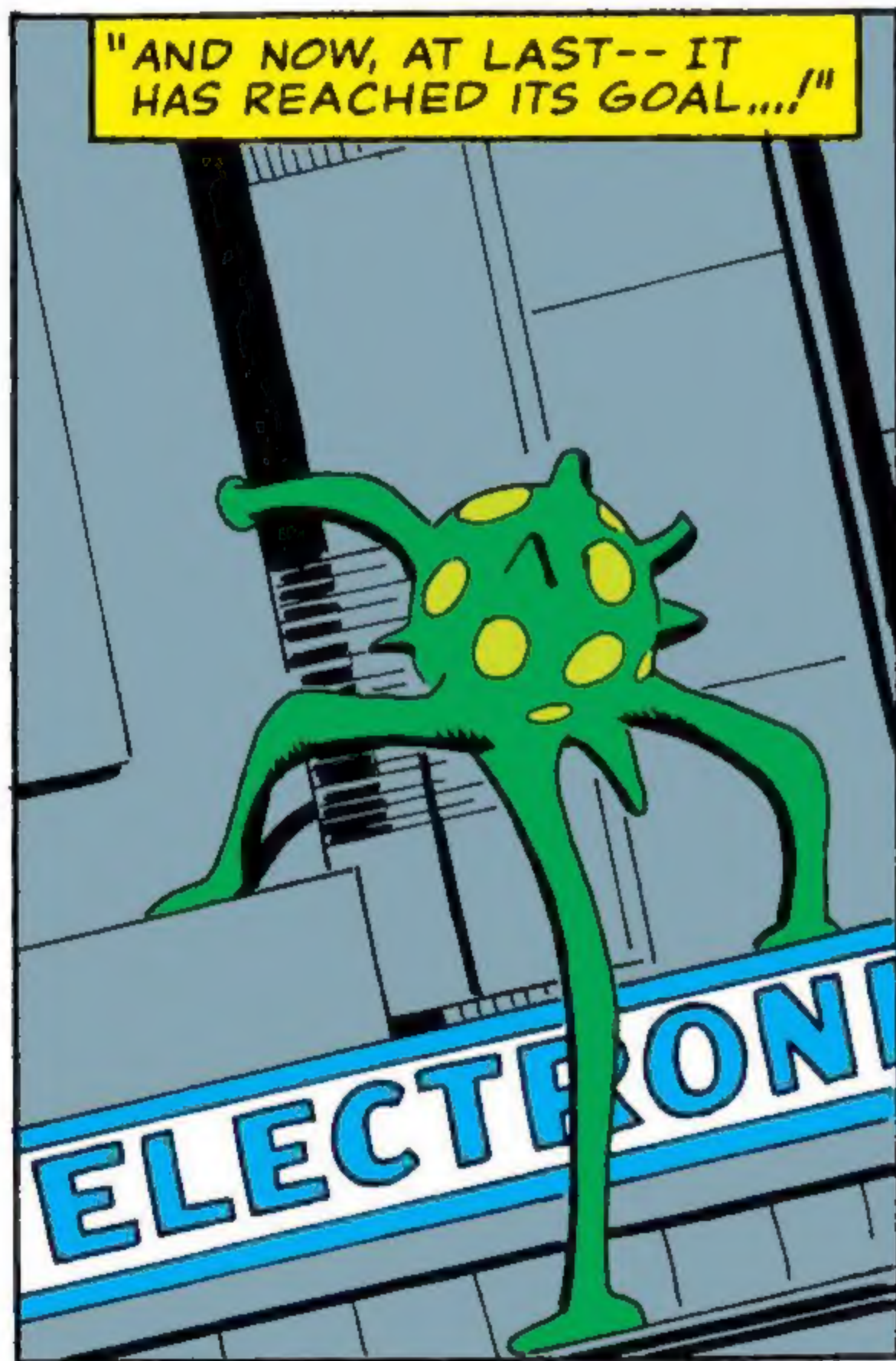
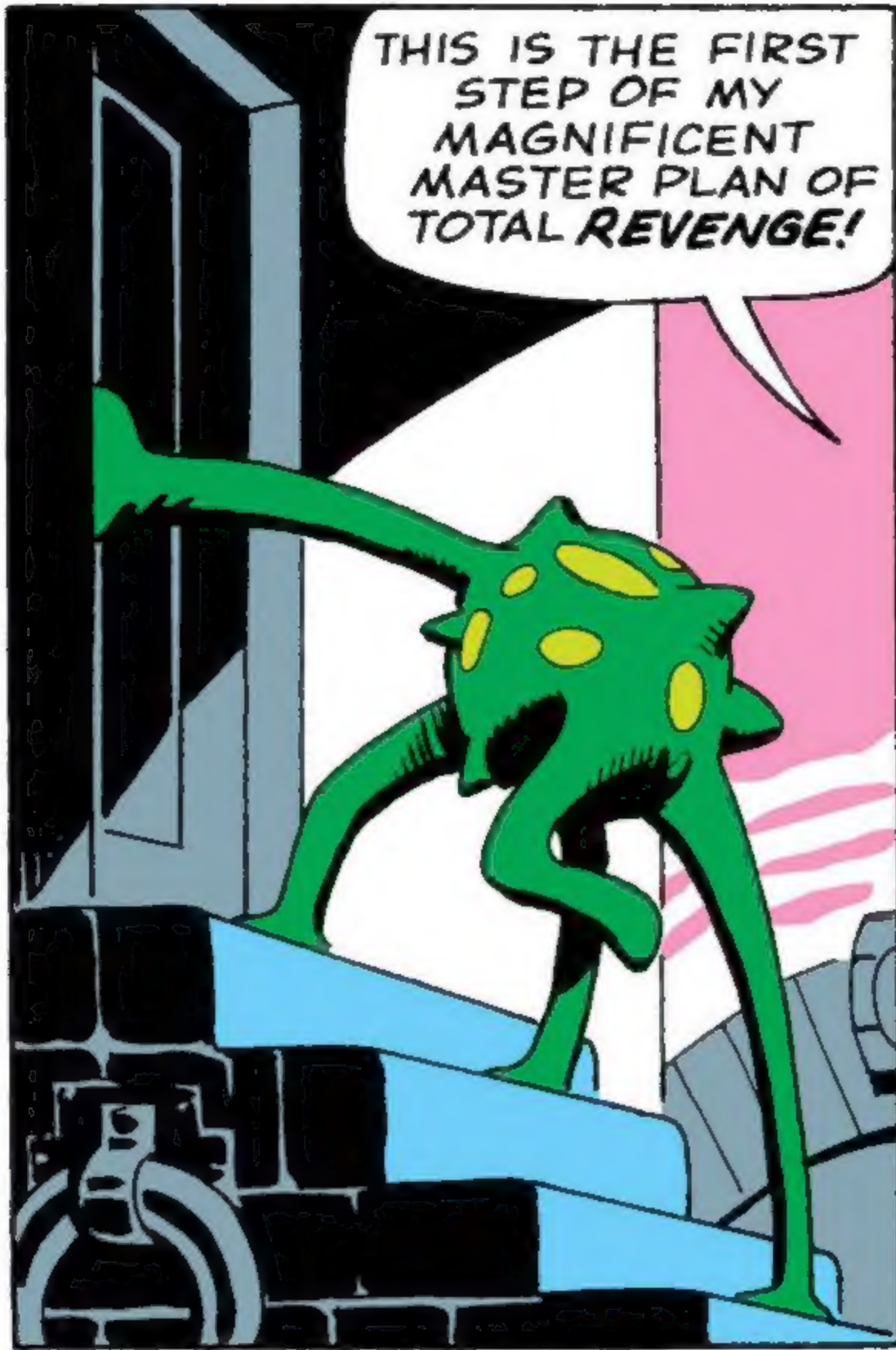
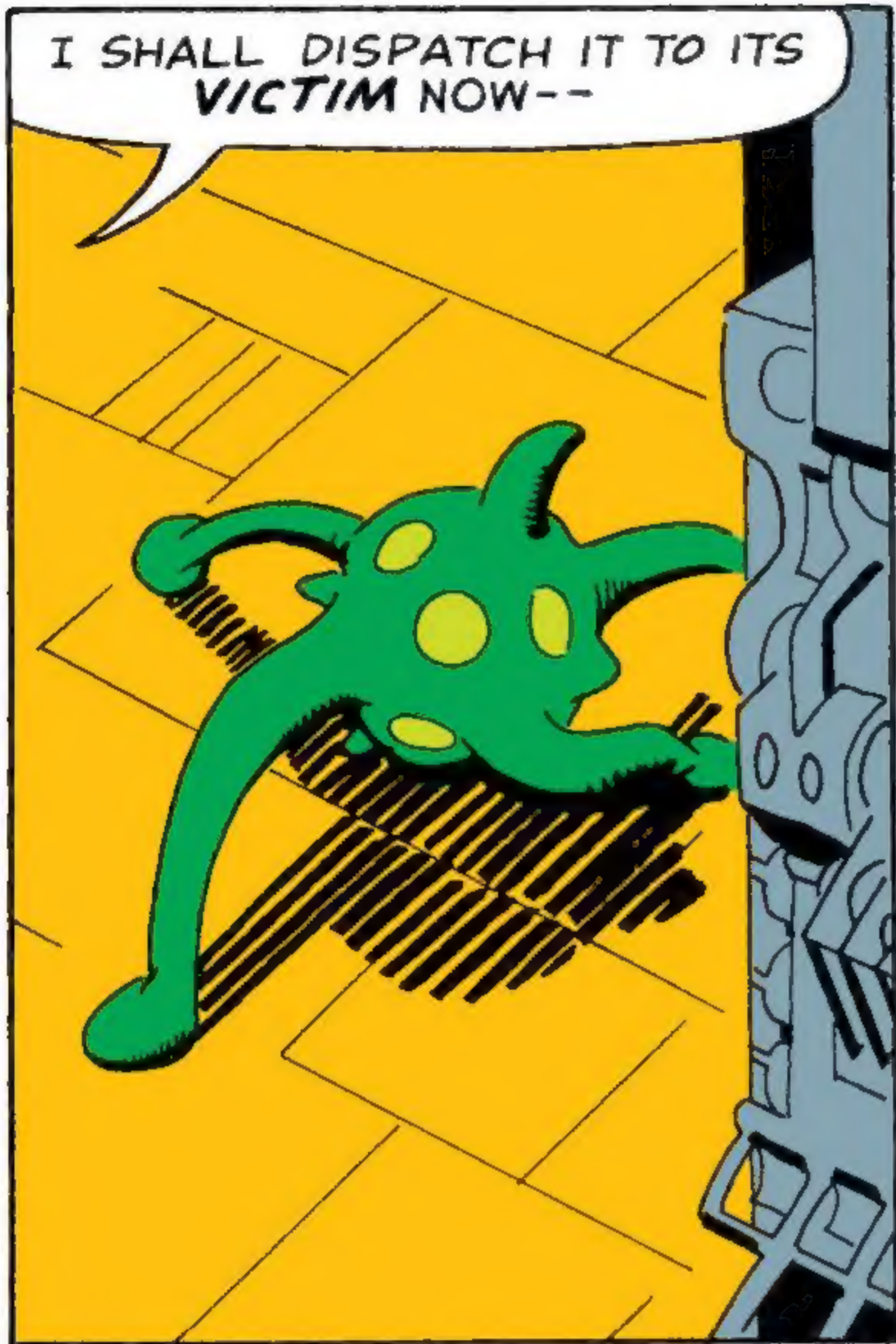
IT'S **FINISHED**, MAX! WHAT DO YOU **THINK** OF MY LITTLE BEAUTY?

IT-- IT MOVES BY **ITSELF!** IT **GRABBED** ME!



OF **COURSE!** I **WILLED** IT TO! DO NOT WORRY, MAX! I CAN MENTALLY CONTROL ITS EVERY ACTION!

IT HAS PASSED EVERY TEST **PERFECTLY!** AND, BEST OF ALL, I CAN ELECTRONICALLY FOLLOW ITS EVERY MOVE!! **WATCH--!**



MEANWHILE, AN EVER-GROWING CROWD GATHERS OUTSIDE THE NOW-SMOKING ELECTRONICS PLANT,...!

STEP BACK, FOLKS! MAKE ROOM FOR THE FIRE TRUCKS!

I COULDA SWORN I SAW SOMEONE-- IN THE AIR, ABOVE ME!

BUT, WITH ALL THIS SMOKE, I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT!

IMAGINED IT?? NOT QUITE,...!

I THOUGHT I SMELLED SMOKE FROM AROUND THE CORNER!

IF ANYONE'S TRAPPED INSIDE, I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP--!

NO, THE PLACE SEEMS EMPTY ENOUGH, EXCEPT FOR--! HOLY HANNAH!

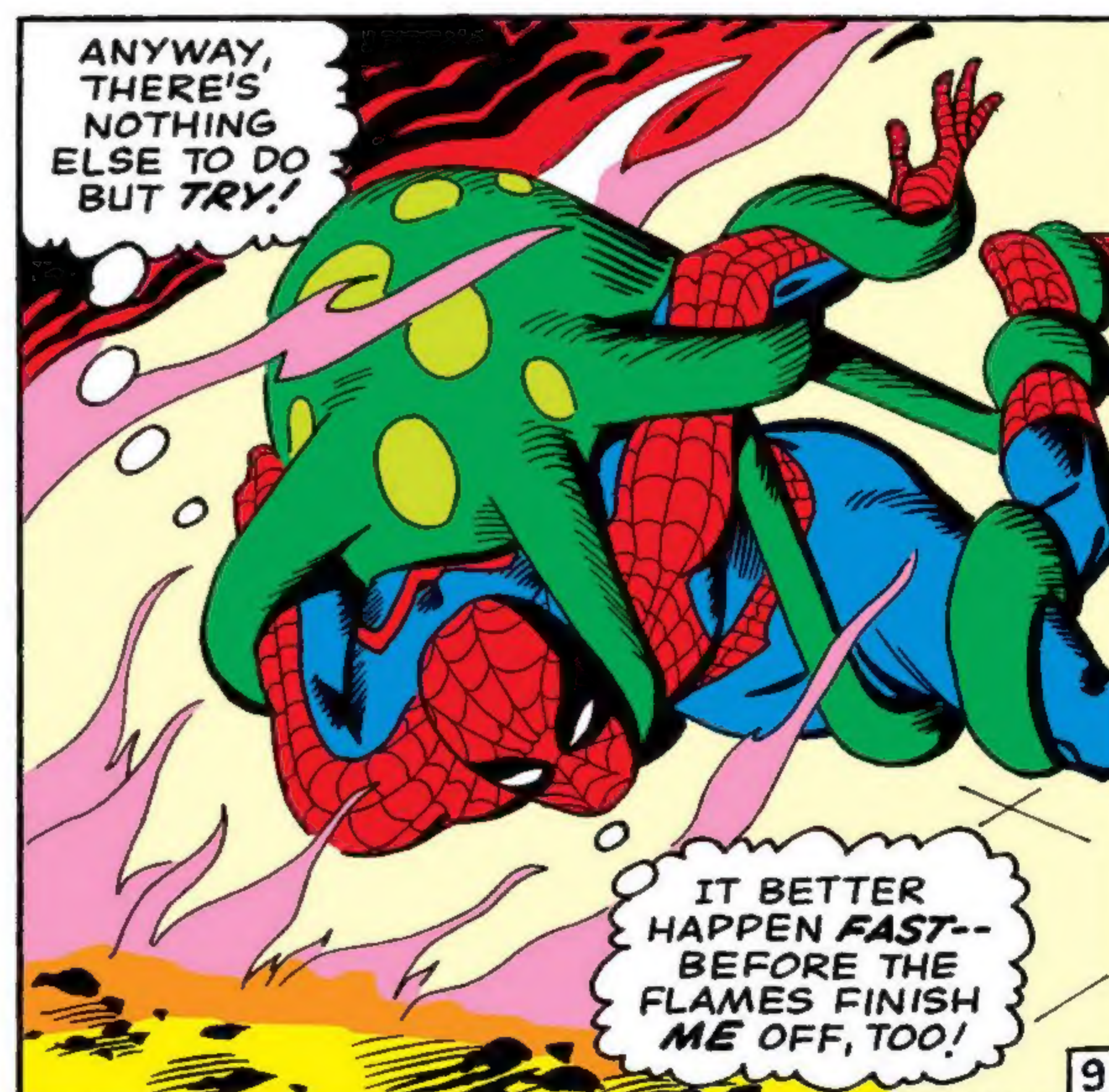
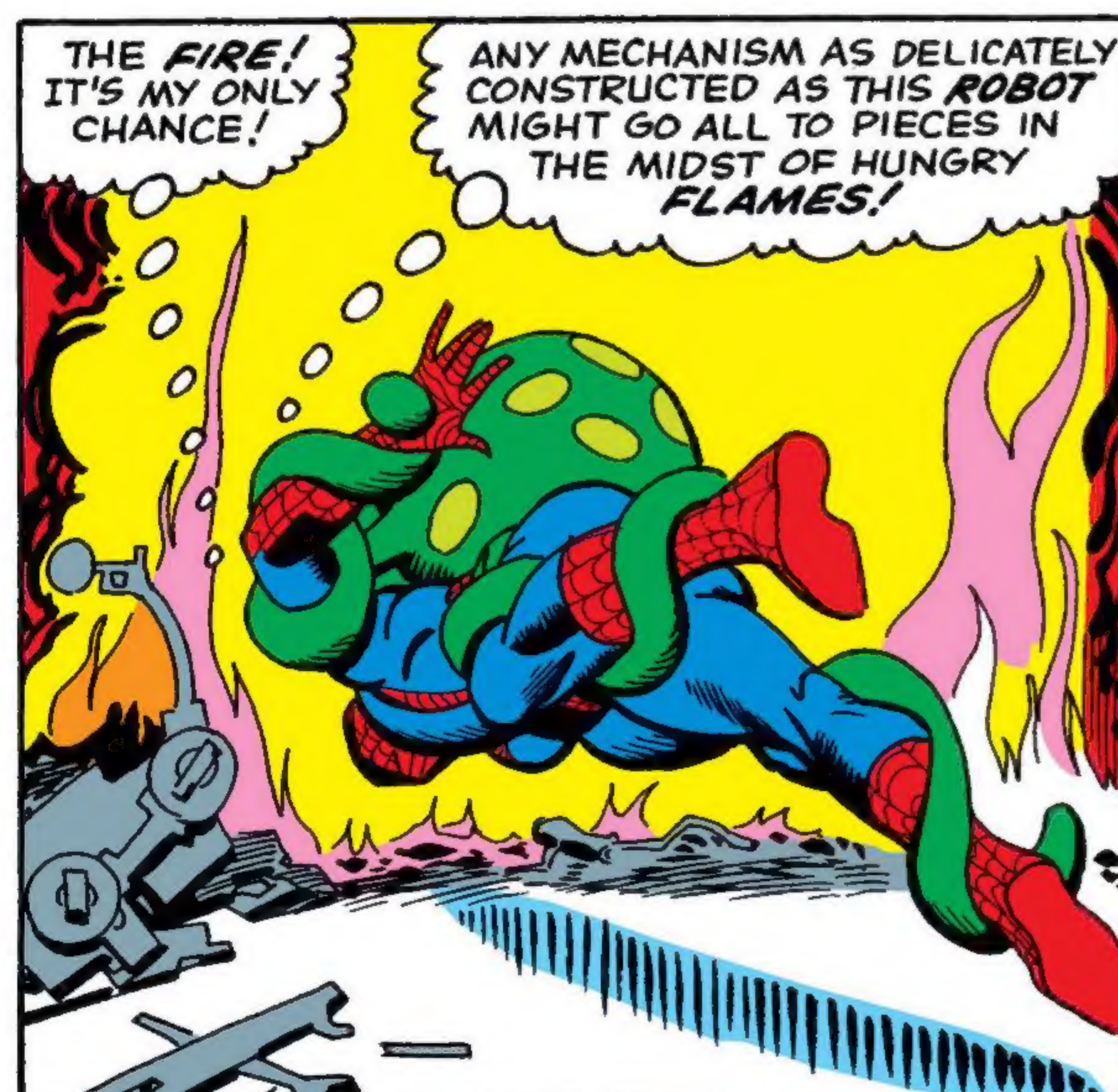
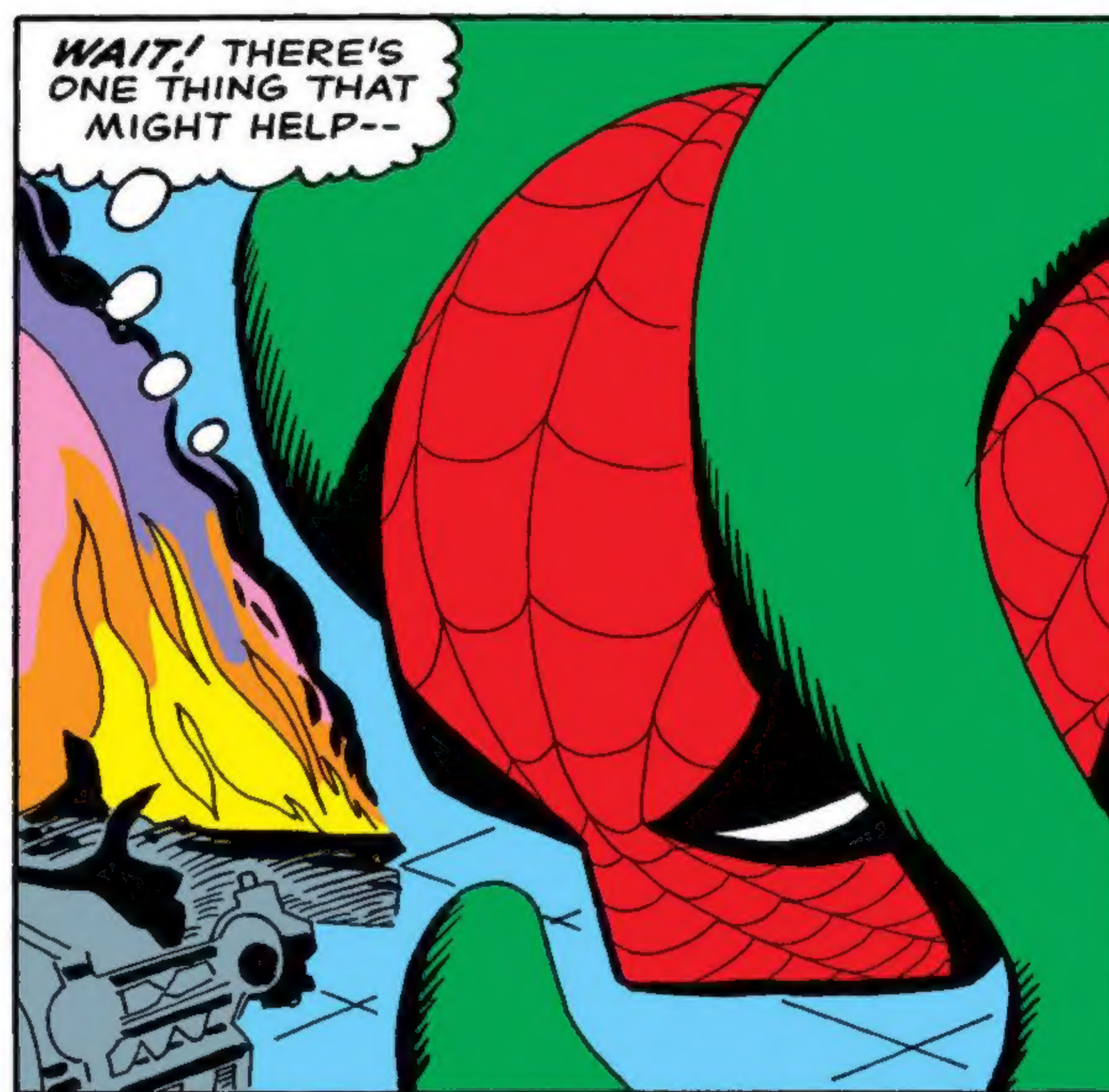
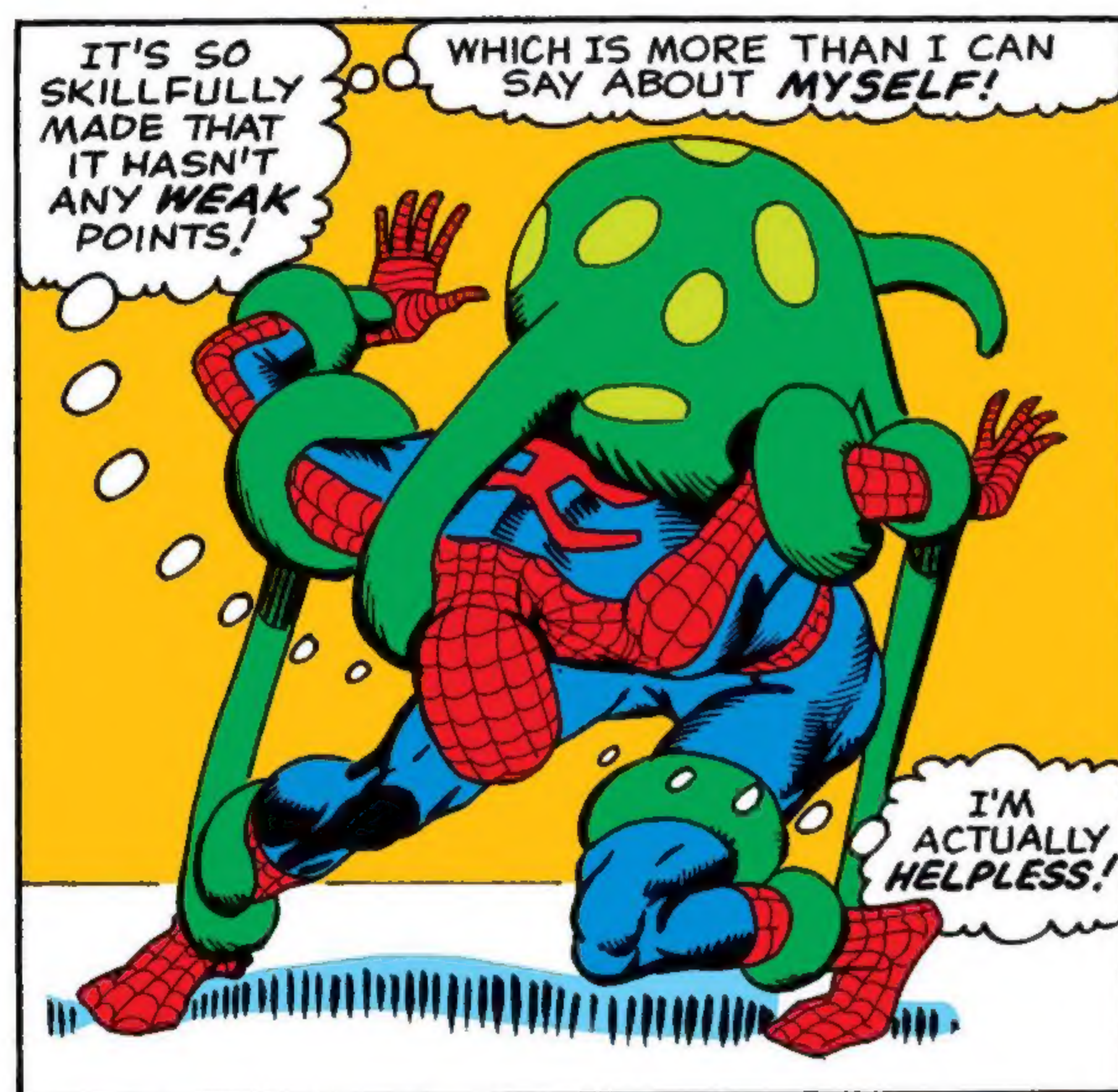
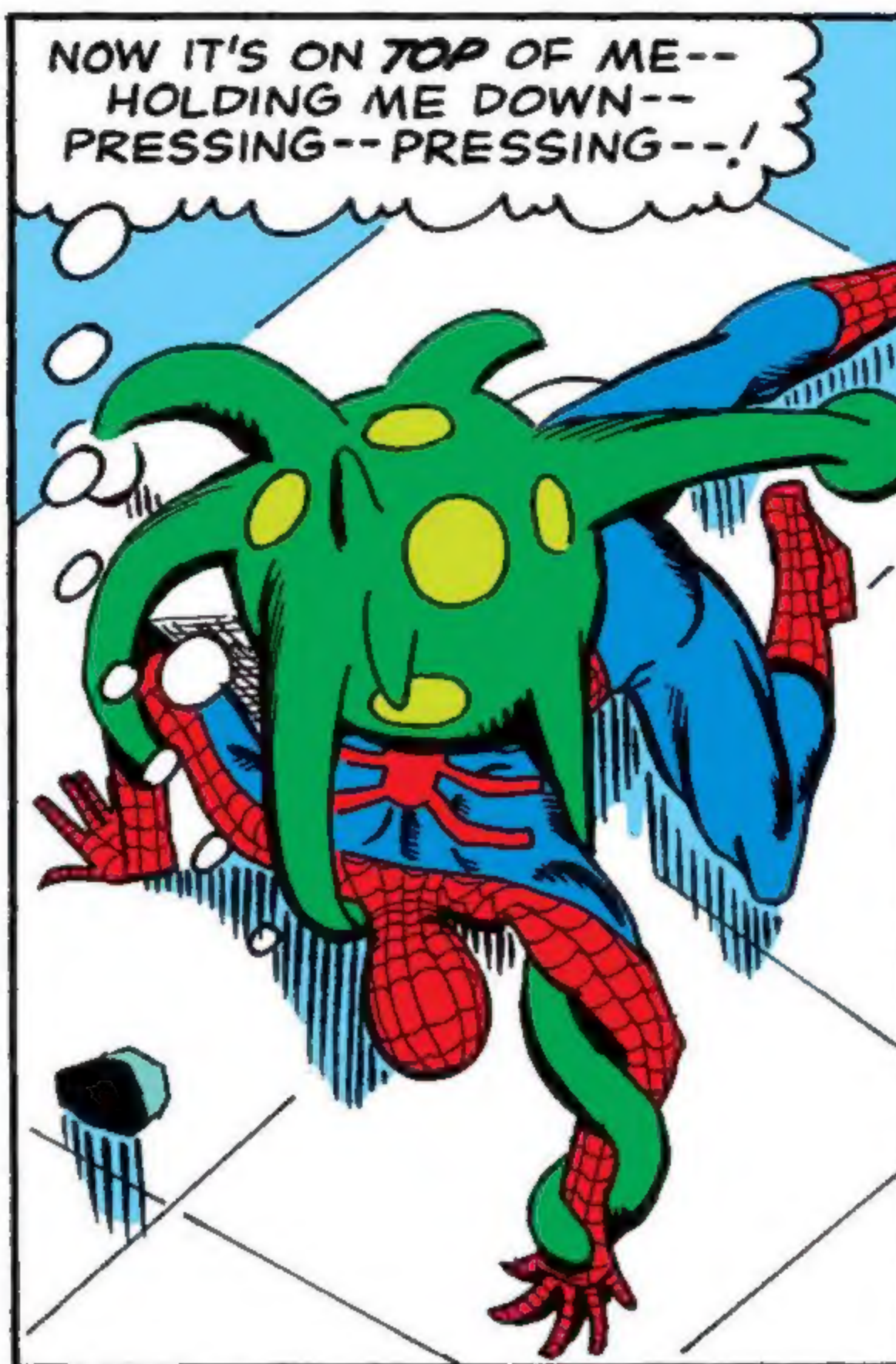
THERE'S SOMETHING CRAWLING ALONG THE FLOOR-- COMING TOWARDS ME ...!

IT'S GOT TENTACLES! IT GRABBED ME--!

SHADES OF DOC OCK! WHAT HAVE I RUN INTO???

IN FACT, IT'S STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT! I CAN'T PUSH IT, OR PULL IT, OR MAKE IT BUDGE!

IT'S A ROBOT OF SOME KIND-- AND STRONG!





IT **WORKED!** THE INFERNO IS **AFFECTING** IT! IT'S **RELEASING** ITS HOLD ON ME!

AND, NOT A MINUTE TOO **SOON!**



NOW I'D BETTER GET OUT **FAST**, BEFORE THE ENTIRE **BUILDING** COLLAPSES!

BUT I'D SURE LIKE TO HAVE LEARNED MORE ABOUT THAT **ROBOT!**



WELL, I'VE GOT A HUNCH THIS ISN'T THE LAST I'VE **SEEN** OF IT!

LOOK! IT'S **SPIDER-MAN!**

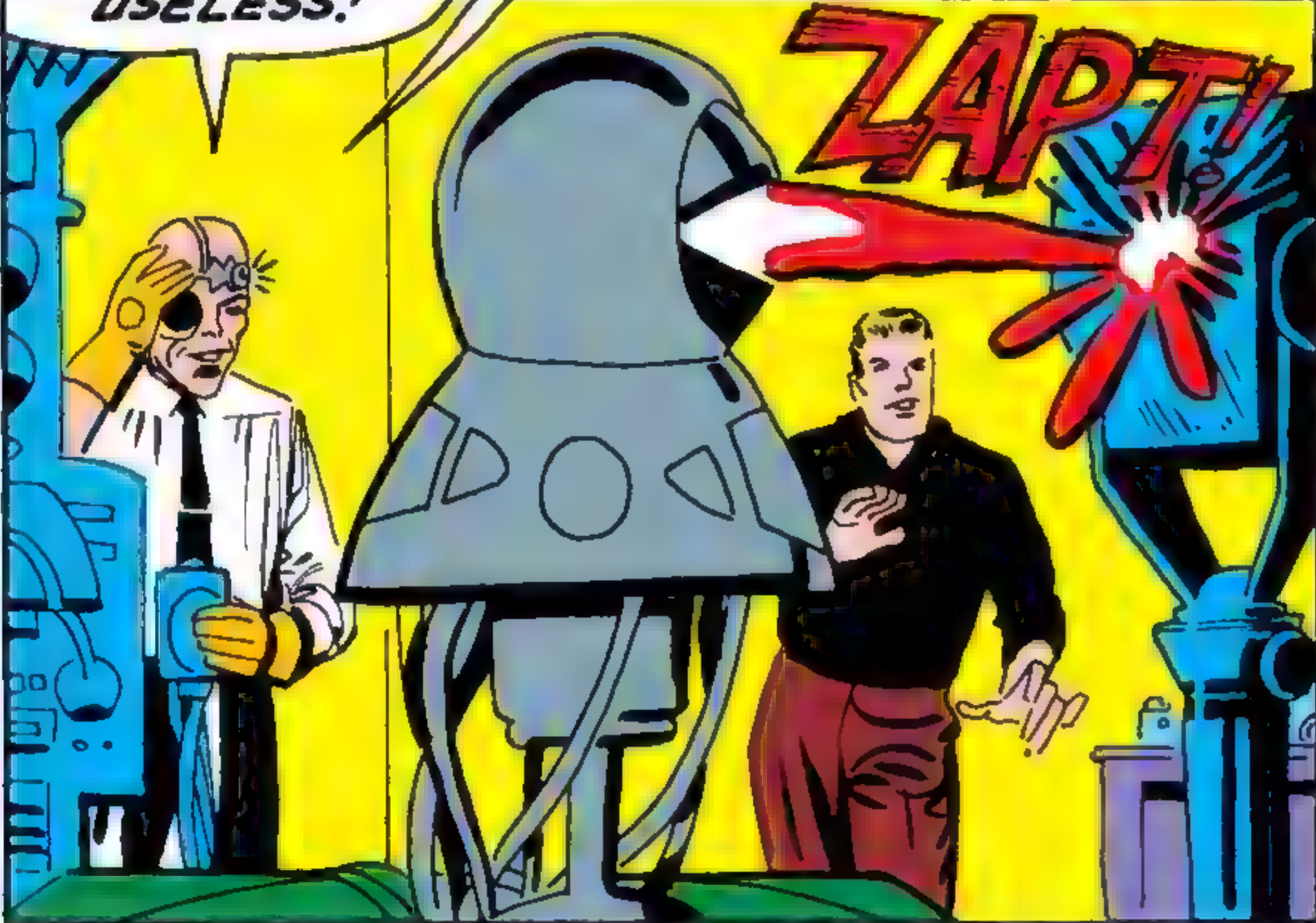
SAY! MAYBE **HE** STARTED THE FIRE!

COULD BE!

LATER, BACK AT THE SINISTER SANCTUM OF PROFESSOR STROMM...

MY **FIRST** ROBOT HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE ADMIRABLY! BUT, IT IS NOW **USELESS!**

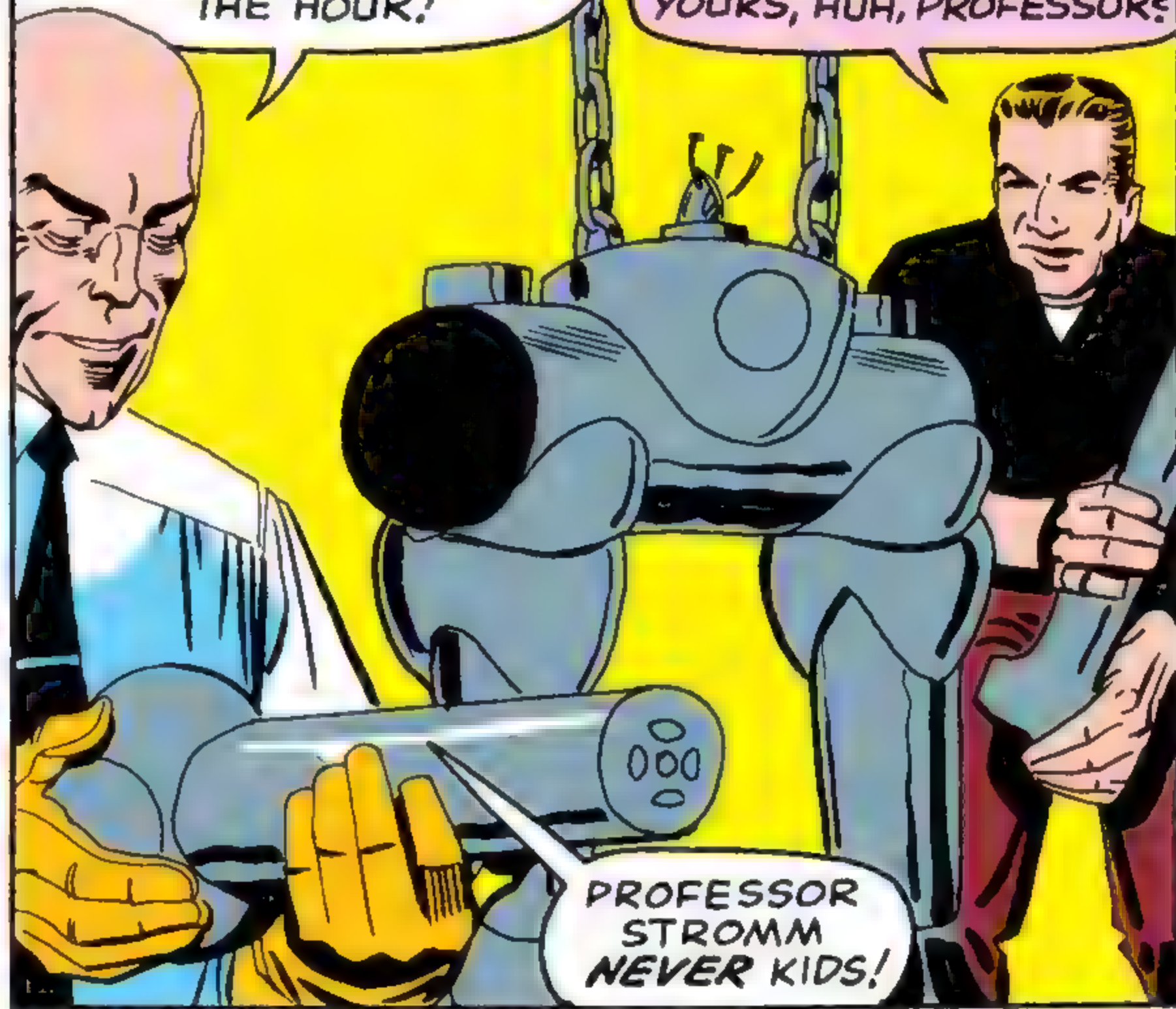
HOWEVER, MY **SECOND** ONE IS FAR STRONGER--AND, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE EQUIPPED IT WITH A REMOTE CONTROL **DESTRUCTION BEAM!**



ZAPT!

WE SHOULD HAVE IT ALL ASSEMBLED AND READY FOR OPERATION WITHIN THE HOUR!

YOU SURE WEREN'T **KIDDING** ABOUT THAT **REVENGE KICK** OF YOURS, HUH, PROFESSOR?



PROFESSOR STROMM **NEVER** KIDS!

AND NOW, WE'VE GOT A SMALL-SCALE **SURPRISE** FOR YOU! REMEMBER HARRY OSBORN, ONE OF PETER PARKER'S NASTIER SCHOOLMATES?

I DON'T **GET** IT, DAD? WHY WOULD **SPIDER-MAN** TRY TO BURN DOWN YOUR PLANT?

DON'T BELIEVE **EVERYTHING** YOU HEAR, HARRY! IT **WASN'T** SPIDER-MAN! **SOMEONE ELSE** WAS BEHIND THIS!

BUT--**WHO?**

NONE OF YOUR **BLASTED BUSINESS!**



I CAN'T TELL THE KID HOW I CHEATED **PROFESSOR STROMM** OUT OF HIS INVENTIONS, AND THEN RAILROADED HIM INTO **JAIL** WHEN HE BEGAN TO THREATEN ME! IT **HAS** TO BE **STROMM** WHO'S AFTER ME!

WOULDN'T IT BE **SOMETHIN'** IF SPIDER-MAN IS TRYING TO WORK A **PROTECTION RACKET?**



HARRY, DON'T YOU **EVER** SHUT UP?!!!

AT THAT MOMENT, HIS NOSE FOR NEWS TWITCHING UP A STORM, JOLLY JONAH JAMESON ENTERS OUR SCENE...

I WAS AT OUR CLUB WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS!

DON'T WORRY, NORMAN-- SPIDER-MAN WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

WE'RE NOT SURE HE'S THE ONE, JONAH!

I'M SURE--AND J. JONAH JAMESON IS NEVER WRONG ABOUT SUCH THINGS!

I SUPPOSE YOUR INSURANCE WILL COVER THE DAMAGE, EH?

YES, BUT IT LOOKS BAD! IF THE ATTACKS CONTINUE, THEY WON'T RENEW MY INSURANCE!

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

THAT'S A SMART BOY YOU'VE GOT, NORMAN! I LIKE THE WAY HE SUMS UP A SITUATION! HE'LL GO FAR!

HE SHOULD! HE SHOULD!

WELL, IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR A FELLOW CLUB MEMBER--?

I'LL CALL YOU IF I NEED YOU, JONAH!

MEANWHILE, BLITHELY SWINGING OVER THE SOMNAMBULANT CITY, WE FIND...

THE CHARACTER FOSWELL REFERRED TO MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT NUTTY ROBOT!

I'D BETTER KEEP TABS ON OL' FOSSY!

AND, SPEAKING OF THE ELUSIVE MR. FOSWELL...

I'LL BE ABLE TO PICK UP MORE INFORMATION IN MY IDENTITY AS PATCH, THE UNDERWORLD STOOLIE!

I'VE GOT TO LEARN WHERE PROFESSOR STROMM IS HIDING OUT!

THEN, NO SOONER HAS PATCH DEPARTED, WHEN AN UNINVITED CALLER ARRIVES...

JUST MY LUCK! HE CHANGED CLOTHES!

I WONDER IF HE KNEW I HAD MY SPIDER TRACER HIDDEN ON HIS HAT?

WELL, MAYBE I CAN STILL SPOT HIM SOMEHOW!

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN ONE OF THE SEEDIER SECTIONS OF TOWN...

WHAT'S DOIN, CHARLIE? HEARD ANYTHING NEW LATELY?

NO! AND EVEN IF I DID, I WOULDN'T SPILL IT TO A PUNK LIKE YOU!

I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T! BUT THERE ARE OTHERS HERE WHO WILL--FOR A PRICE!

WHILE, JUST OUTSIDE THE SMOKY SALOON...

NOTHING SO FAR! ALL I'M GETTING IS HEARTBURN FROM HANGING UPSIDE-DOWN SO LONG!

WHOOPS! LOOK WHO'S THERE!

IT'S THAT STOOLIE --PATCH! MIGHT AS WELL TAIL AFTER HIM TILL I CAN GET A LEAD ON FOSWELL!

I KNEW I'D LEARN SOMETHING! BUT FIRST I'LL CHECK IT OUT BEFORE I CALL THE COPS!

AND, AS PATCH THOUGHTFULLY WALKS IN THE DIRECTION OF PROFESSOR STROMM'S LABORATORY, WE PROVE OUR CLEVERNESS BY BEATING HIM TO IT--

EVERYTHING IS READY NOW, MAX!

RELEASE THE ROBOT--AND STAND ASIDE! I'VE GOT TO TEST IT!

THIS ONE WILL BE TWICE AS DANGEROUS AS YOUR FIRST ROBOT --IF IT WORKS!

OF COURSE IT WILL WORK! NOW, LET GO!

WAP!

PERFECT! ITS RESPONSE IS SWIFT-- AND DEADLY!

WHILE, OUTSIDE THE LAB...

ONE THING'S FOR SURE-- PATCH ISN'T MERELY SIGHT-SEEING! HE'S AFTER SOMETHING HERE! BUT--WHAT?

IT COST ME PLENTY, BUT I LEARNED THAT STROMM IS HOLED UP SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA...

YOU! STAY WHERE YOU ARE! DON'T TURN AROUND! DON'T EVEN MOVE!

I FOUND HIM!

A BUILT-IN DOOR-- HIDDEN IN THE WALL! VERRRRY INTERESTING!

THIS IS LIKE WATCHING "THE MAN FROM UNCLE"-- ON A LIFE-SIZE TV SCREEN!

NO SWEAT, PROFESSOR! JUST SOME BUM SNOOPING AROUND! IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW!

YOU WANT ME TO BRING 'IM IN? OKAY!

AWW, NO! AM I GONNA HAVE TO TANGLE WITH ANOTHER ROBOT??

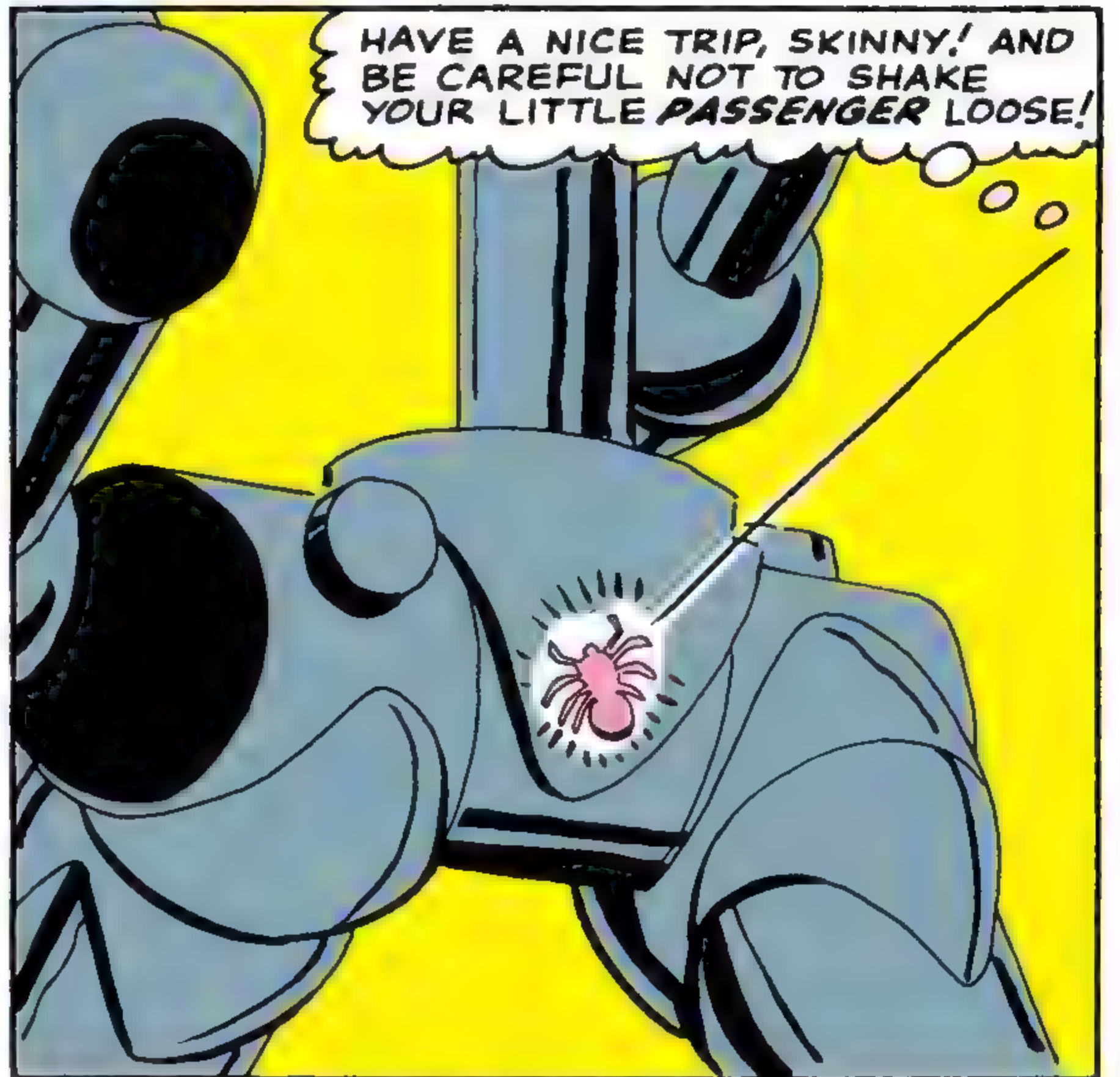
ALL RIGHT, YOU-- THRU THAT DOOR! START MOVING!

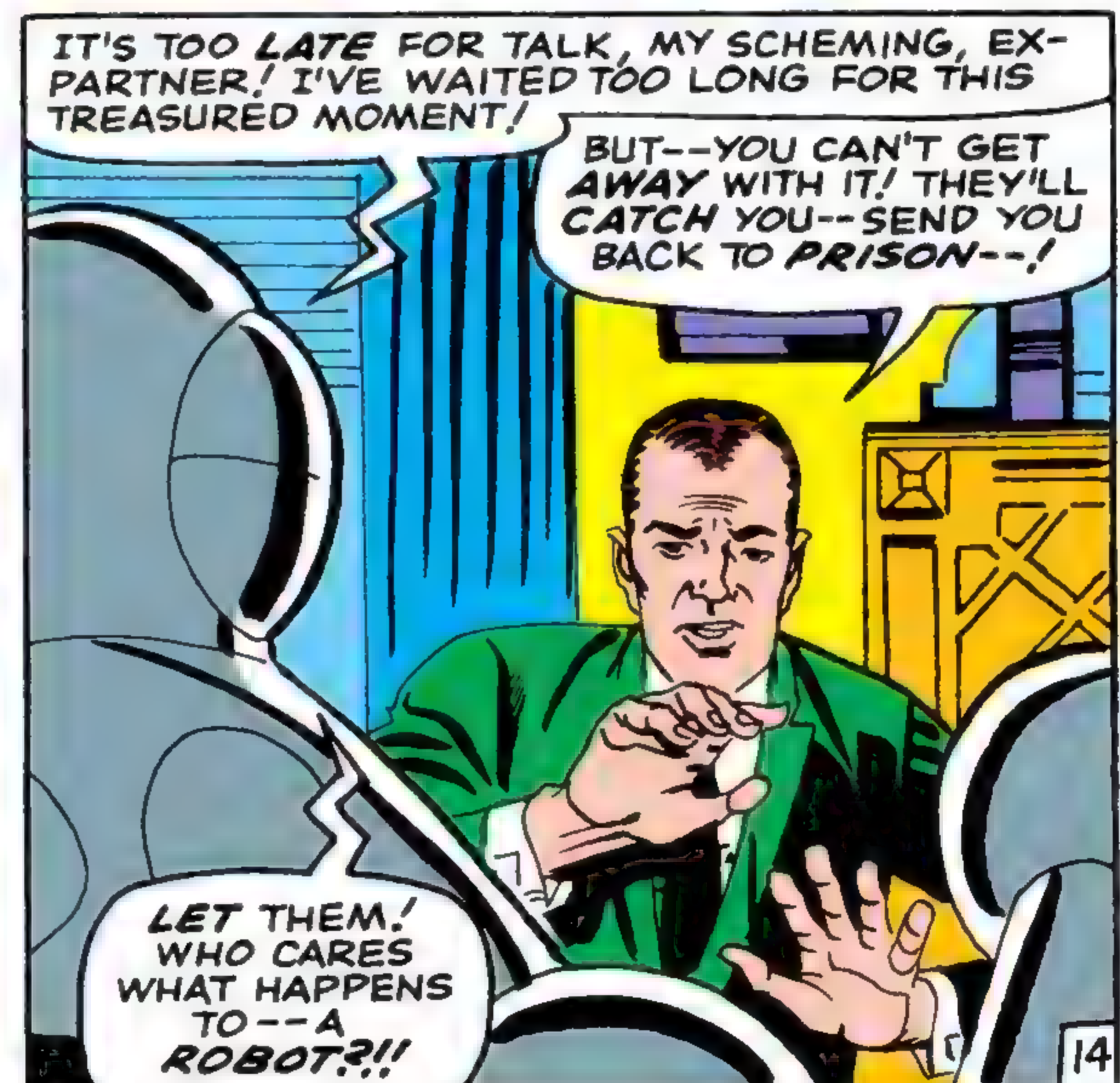
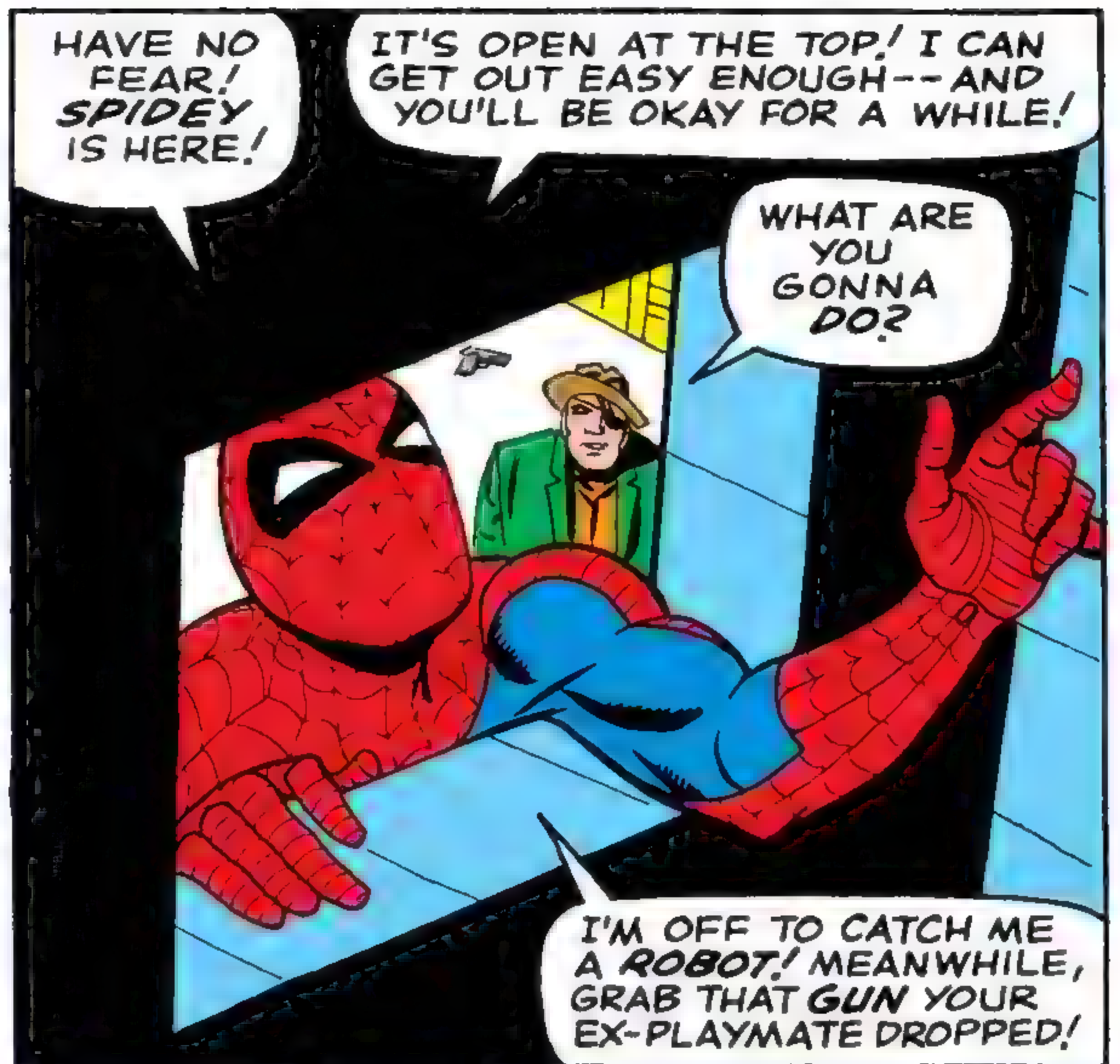
KLANK! KLANK!

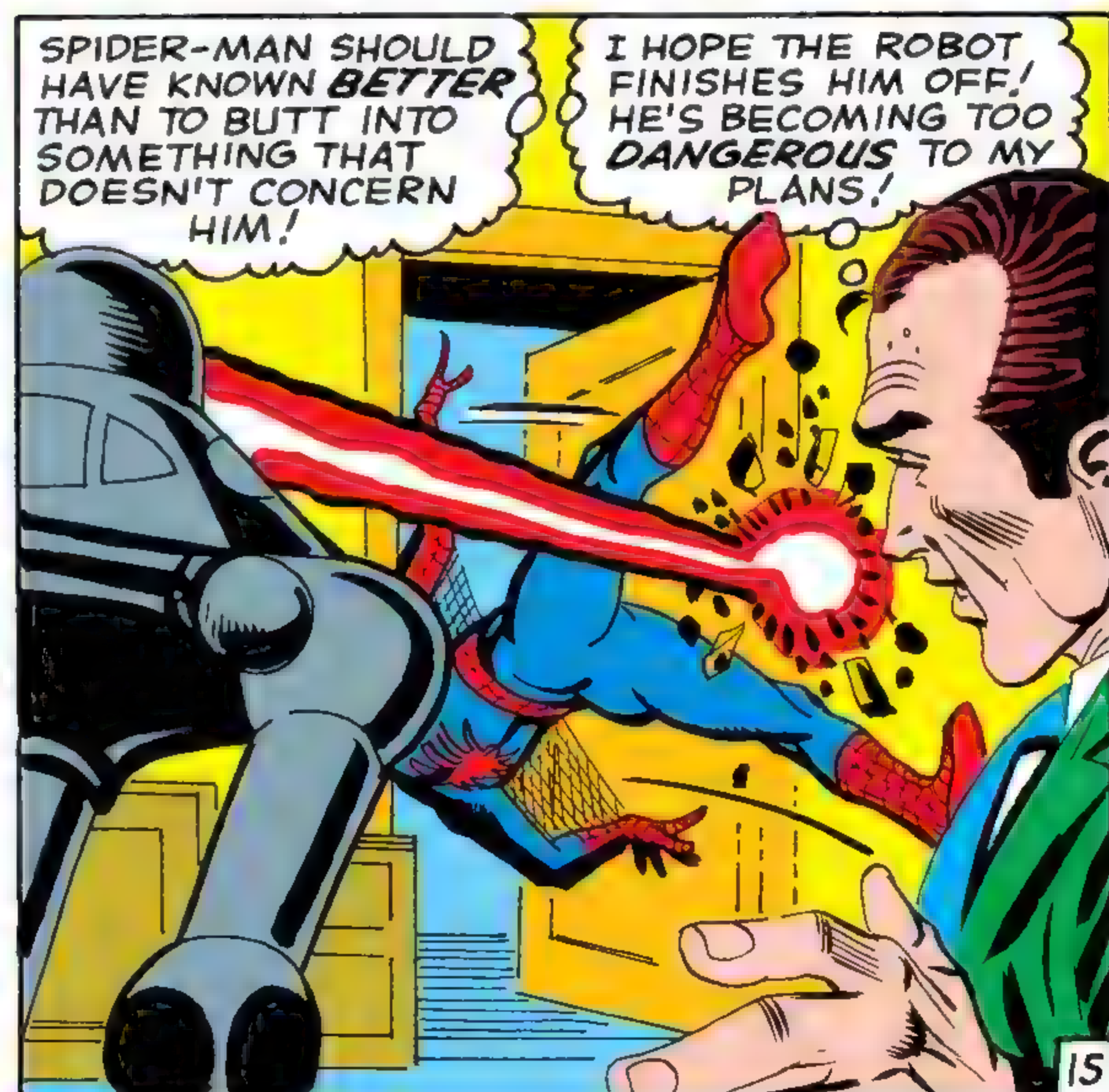
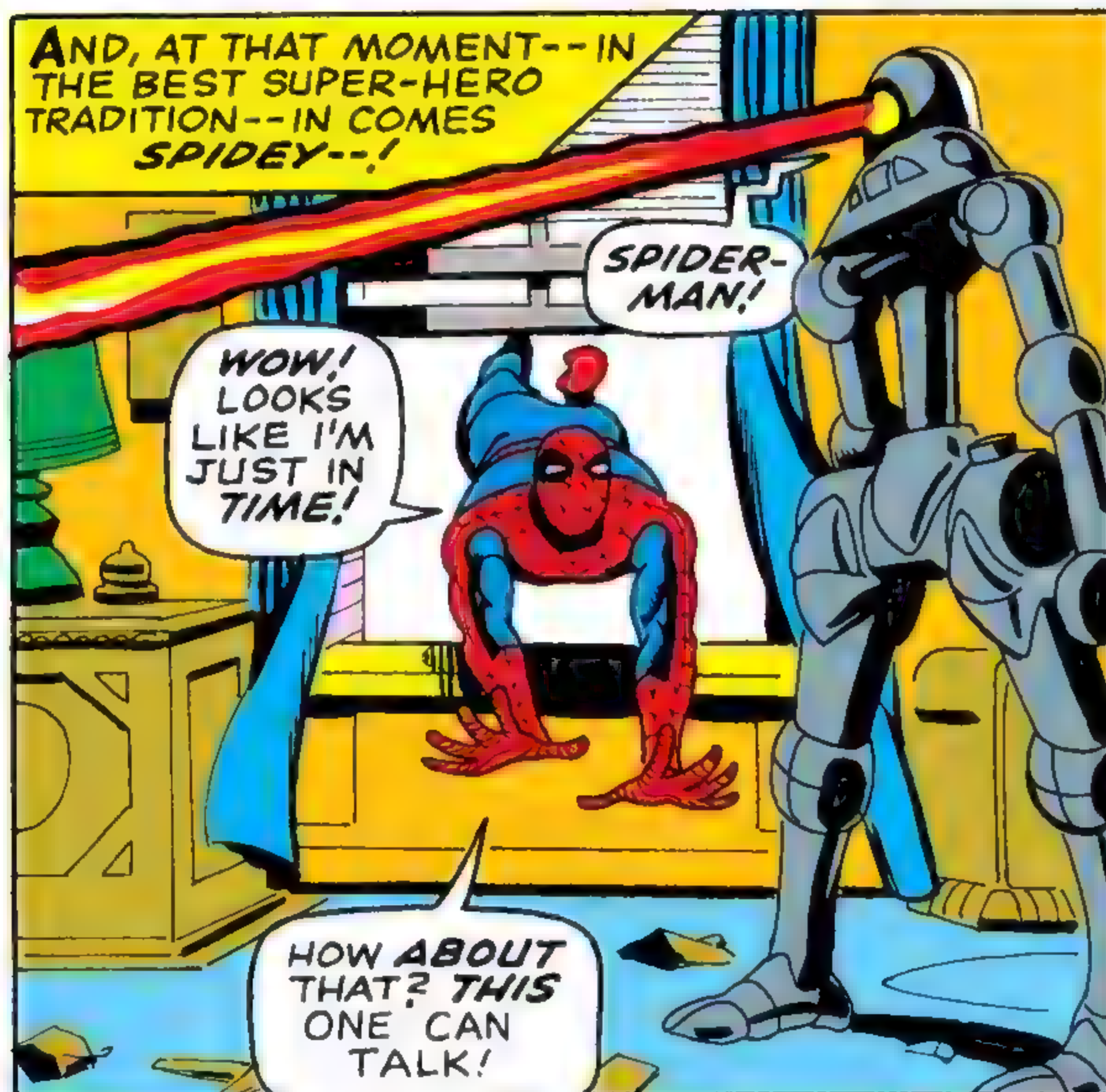
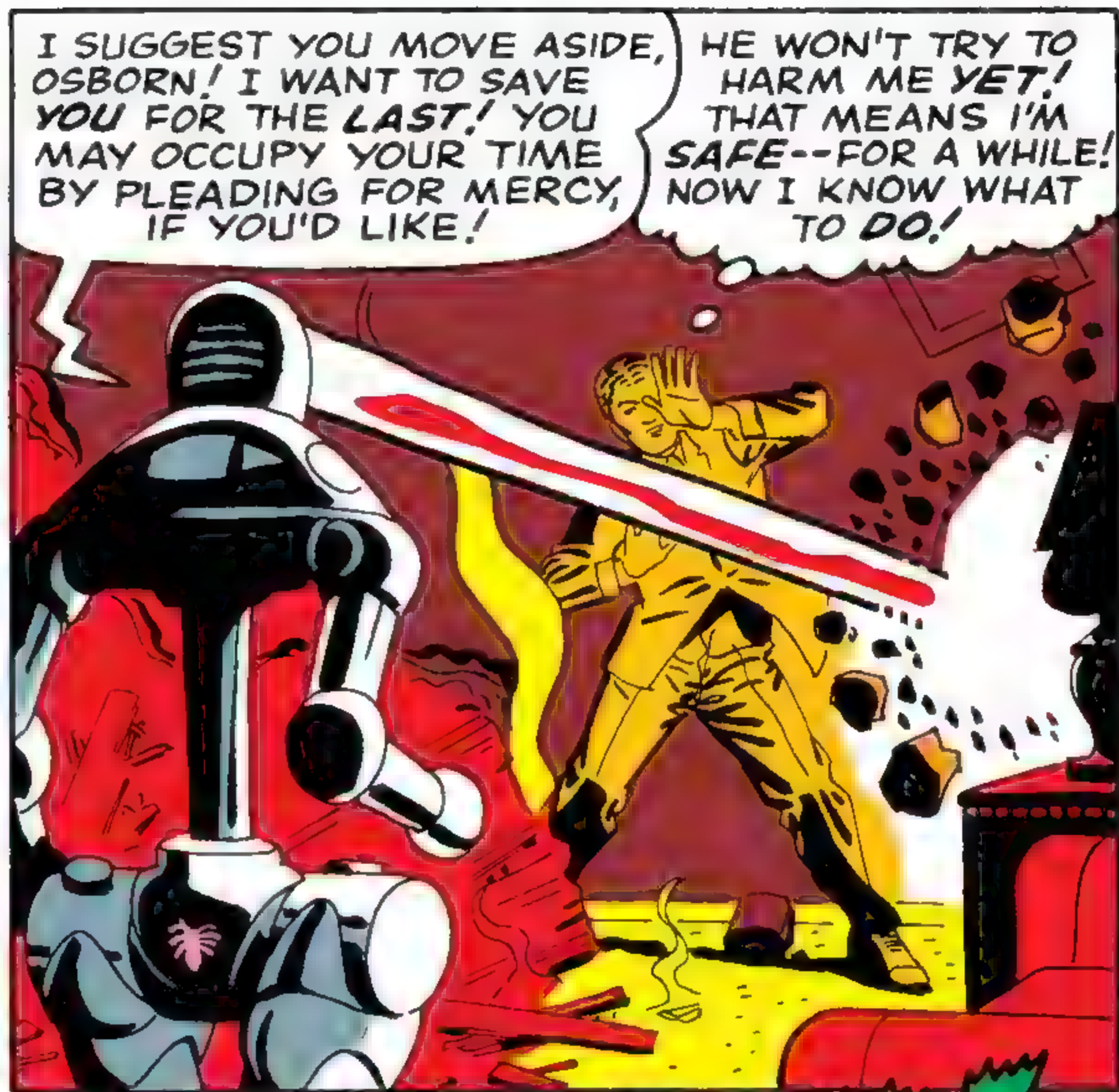
I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THAT WALKING STOVE-PIPE AND SEE WHAT IT'S UP TO!

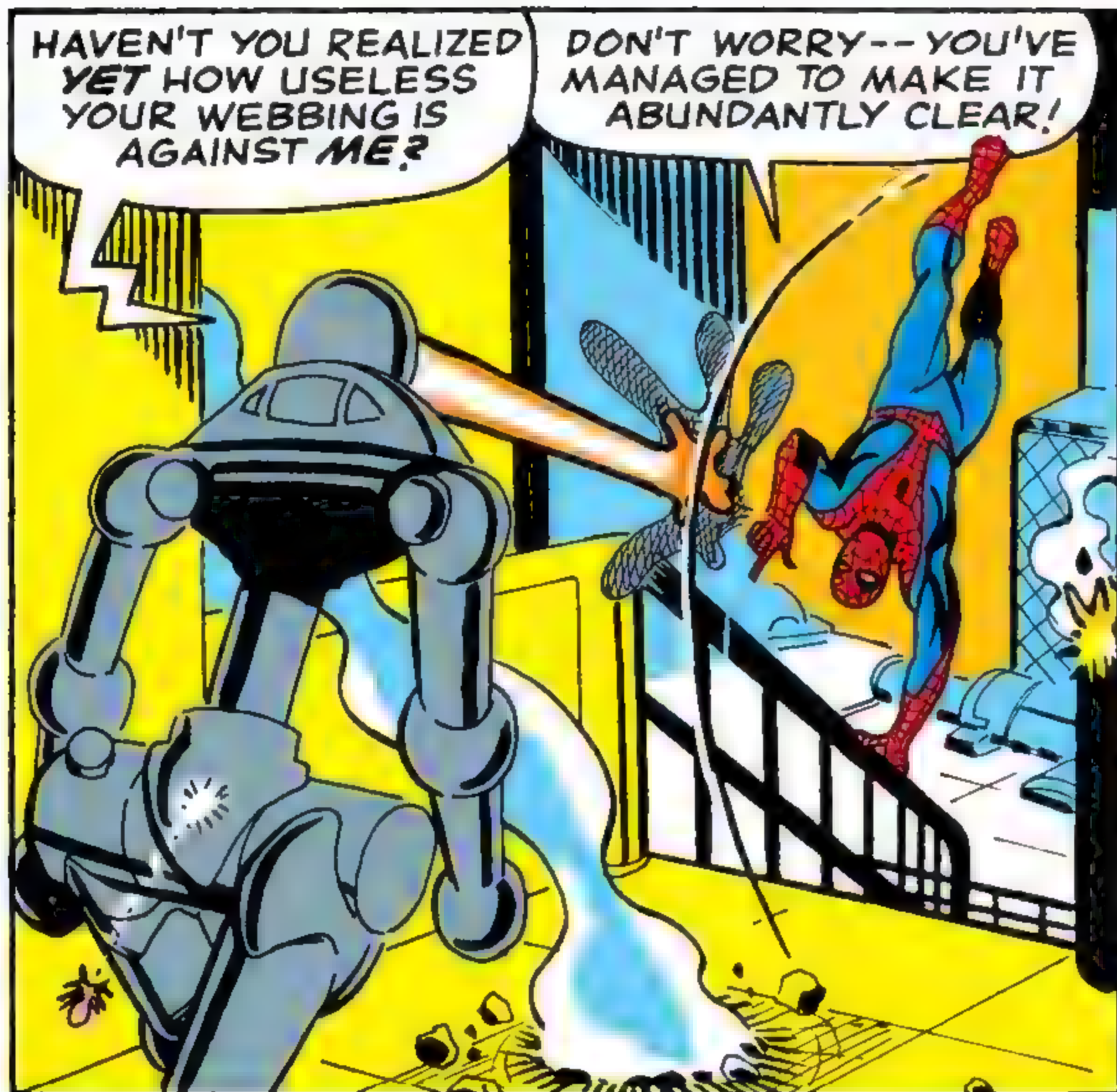
BUT, I CAN'T CUT OUT ON PATCH WHEN IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S GONNA NEED SOME HELP-- BUT FAST!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO...!



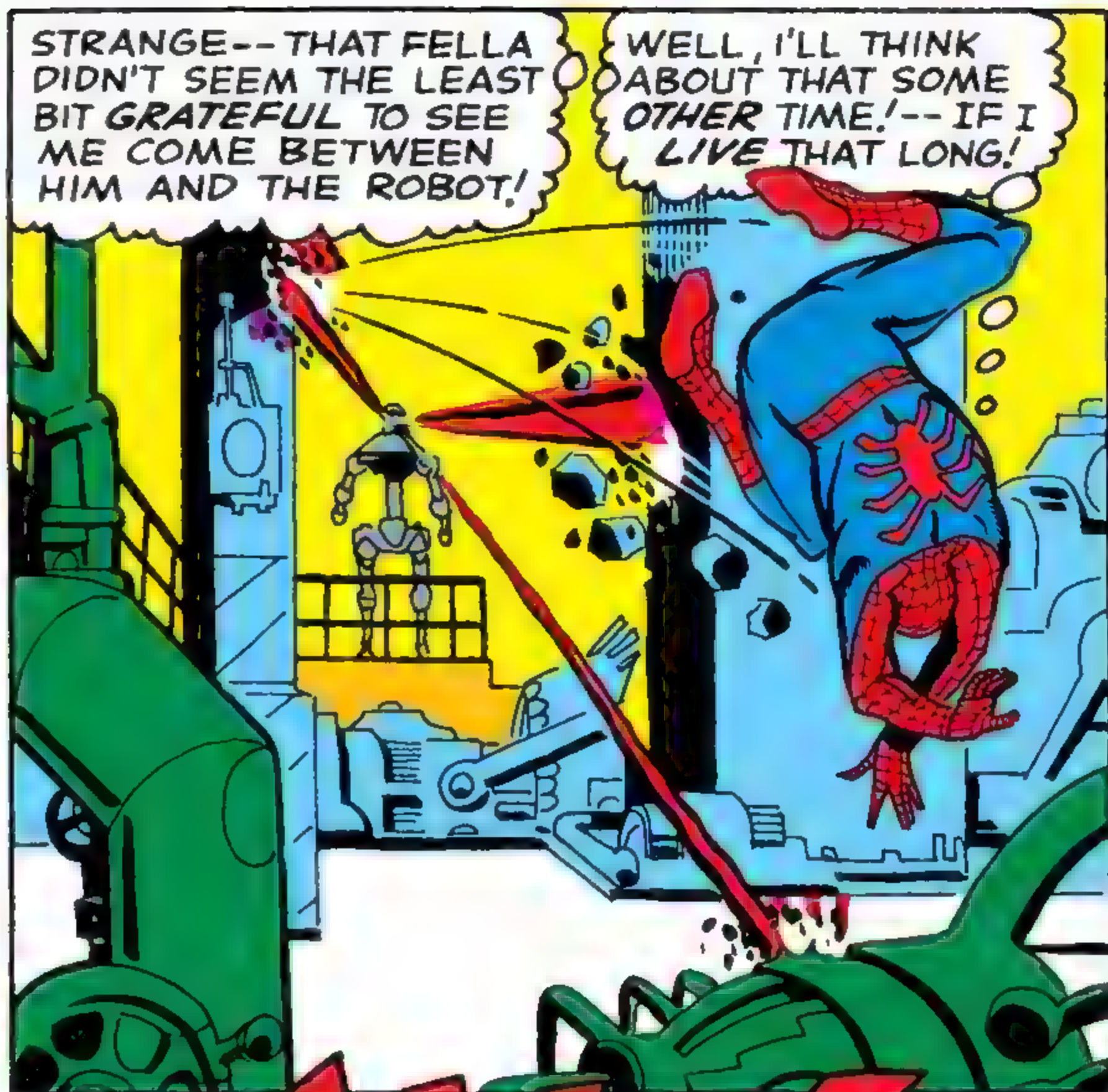






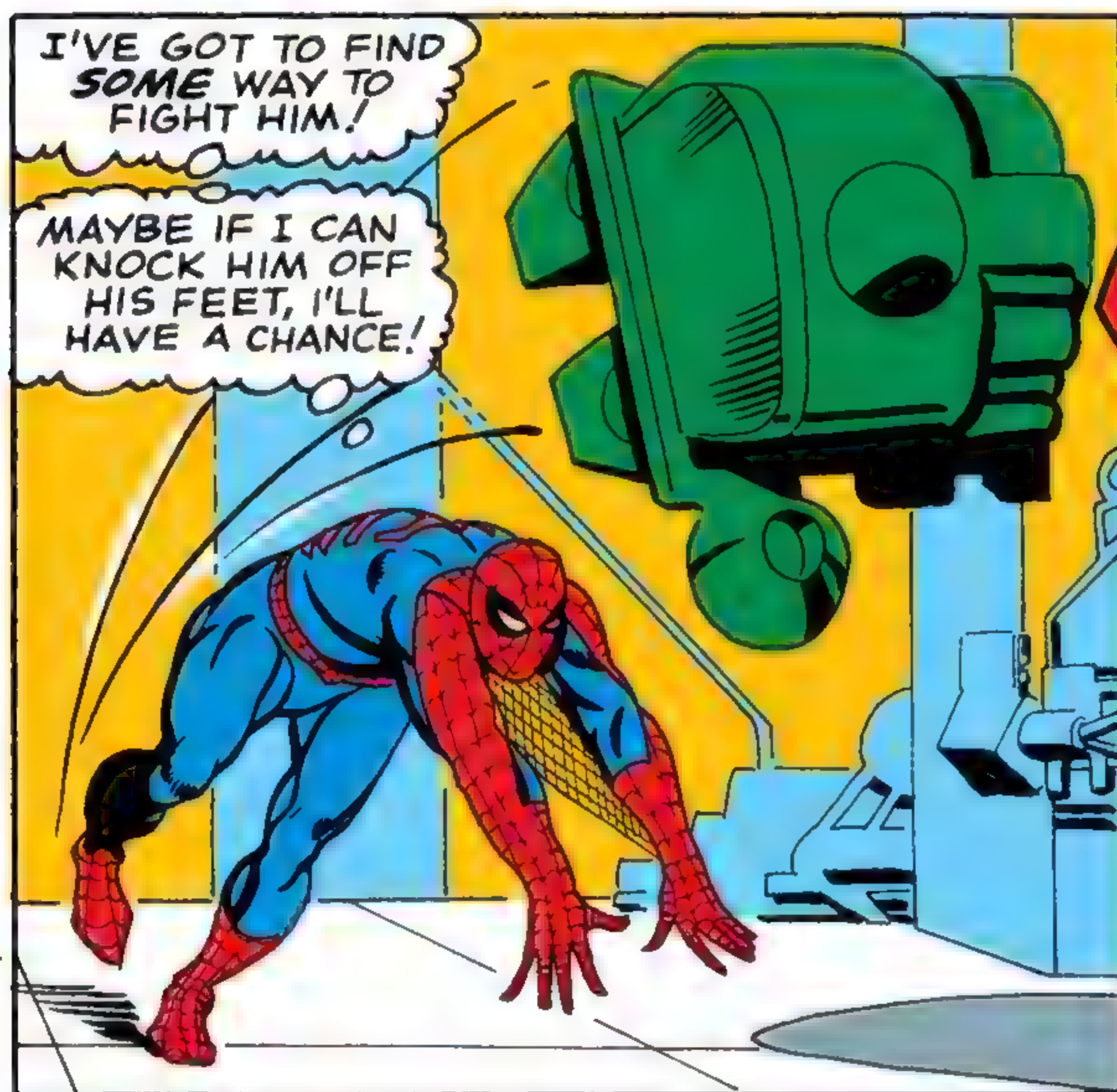
HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED
YET HOW USELESS
YOUR WEBBING IS
AGAINST ME?

DON'T WORRY-- YOU'VE
MANAGED TO MAKE IT
ABUNDANTLY CLEAR!



STRANGE-- THAT FELLA
DIDN'T SEEM THE LEAST
BIT GRATEFUL TO SEE
ME COME BETWEEN
HIM AND THE ROBOT!

WELL, I'LL THINK
ABOUT THAT SOME
OTHER TIME!-- IF I
LIVE THAT LONG!

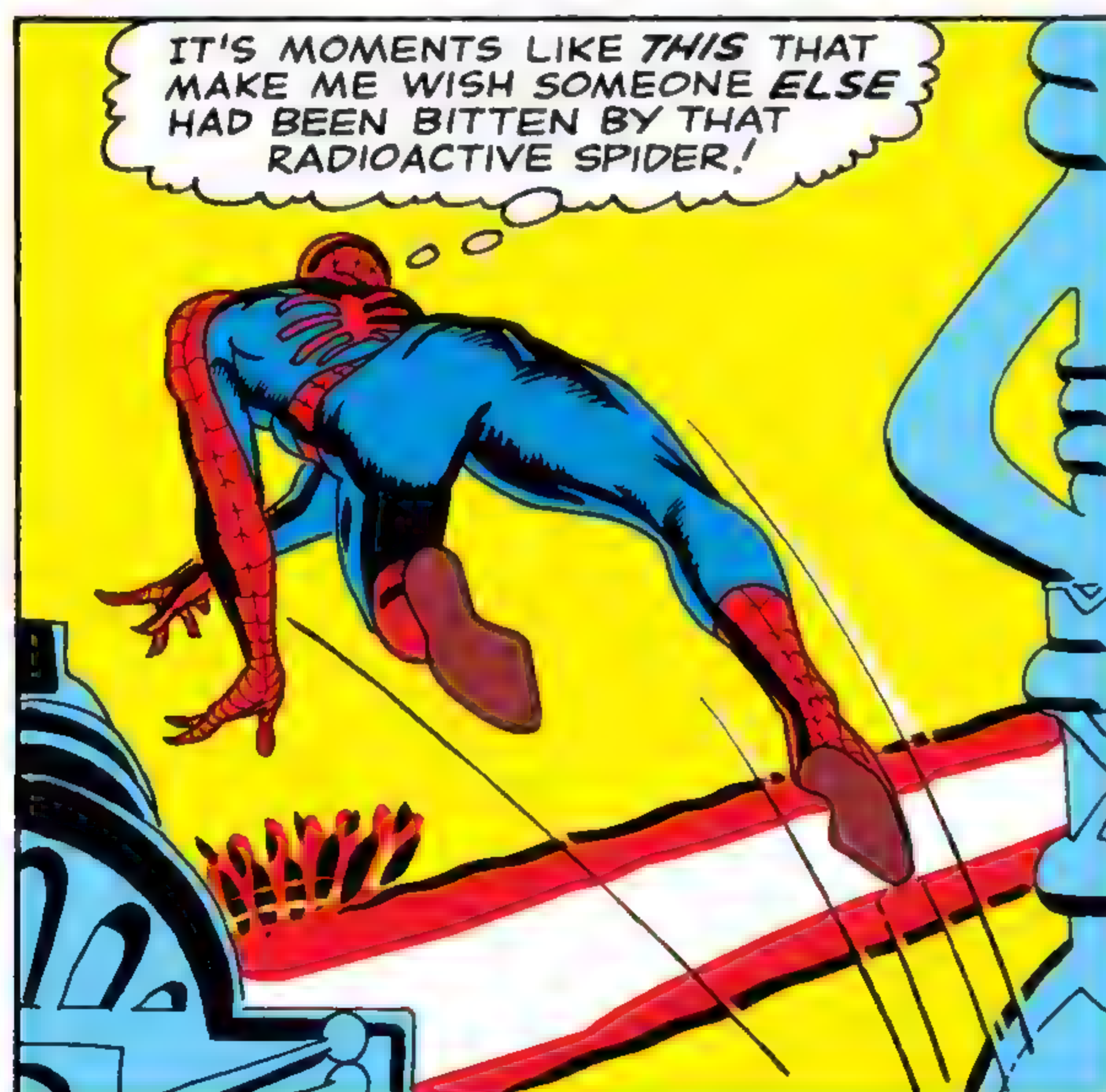


I'VE GOT TO FIND
SOME WAY TO
FIGHT HIM!

MAYBE IF I CAN
KNOCK HIM OFF
HIS FEET, I'LL
HAVE A CHANCE!



WELL,
SO MUCH
FOR
THAT!



IT'S MOMENTS LIKE *THIS* THAT
MAKE ME WISH SOMEONE *ELSE*
HAD BEEN BITTEN BY THAT
RADIOACTIVE SPIDER!



BUT, AS SPIDEY RACES
PAST THE MAN HE
WAS TRYING TO SAVE...

NOW'S MY
CHANCE!

HE WAS TOO
BUSY TO PAY
ATTENTION
TO ME! AND
THE ROBOT
HASN'T SEEN
ME YET,
EITHER!



IF THAT *BLOW* DIDN'T FINISH HIM OFF, I'LL LET THE *ROBOT* DO THE JOB!

AS FOR ME--I'VE GOT A LOT TO DO NOW!

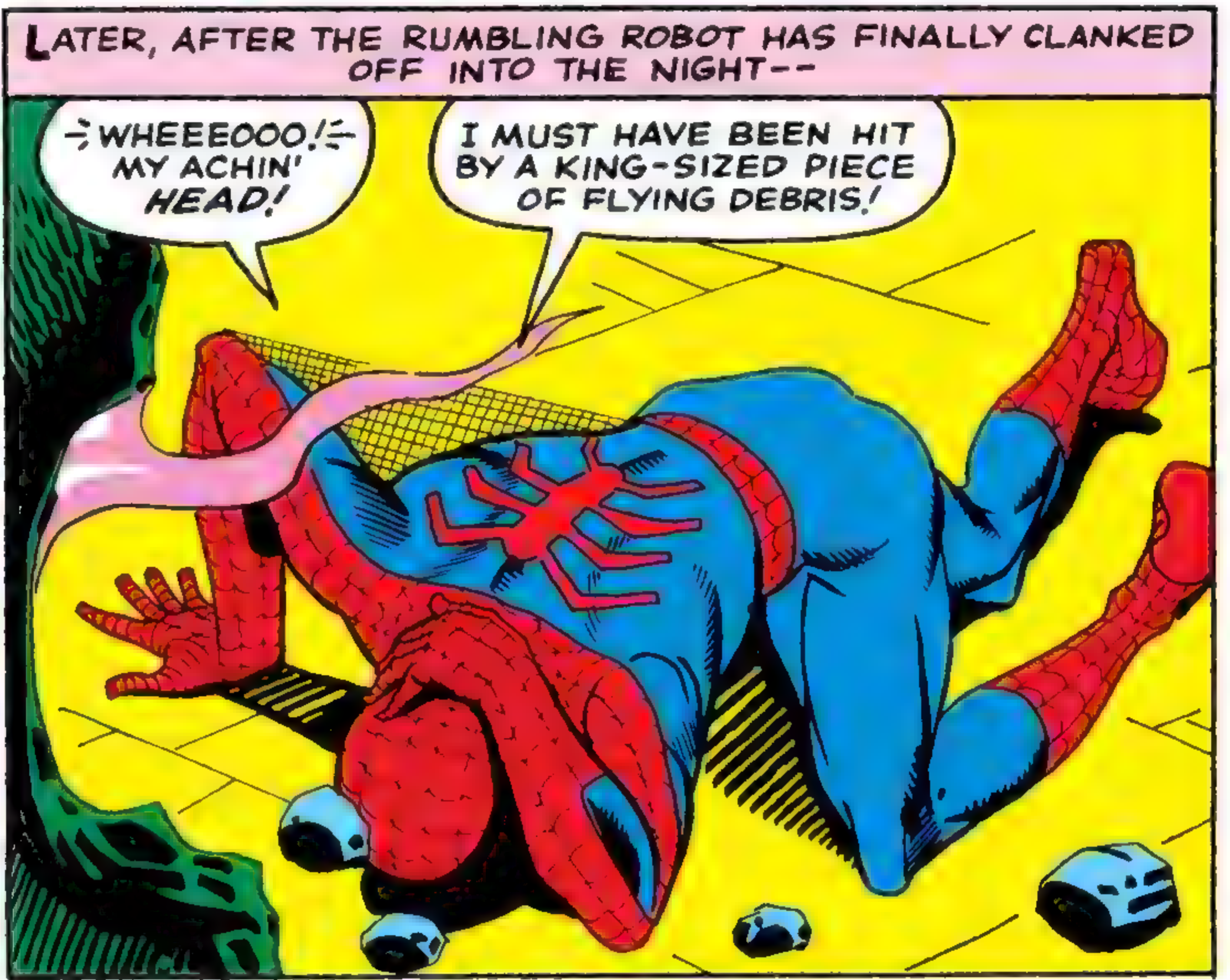


SECONDS LATER--

SOME POISONOUS VAPOR MUST HAVE GOTTEN HIM! HALF THE CON'S IN PRISON WILL *CELEBRATE* WHEN THE NEWS GETS OUT!



BUT, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH *OSBORN* GOT AWAY! I'LL DESTROY HIS PLANT WHILE HE'S GONE--JUST AS I'D *PLANNED* TO DO!



LATER, AFTER THE RUMBLING ROBOT HAS FINALLY CLANKED OFF INTO THE NIGHT--

WHEEEOOO! MY ACHIN' HEAD!

I MUST HAVE BEEN HIT BY A KING-SIZED PIECE OF FLYING DEBRIS!



BUT, I WONDER WHY THE ROBOT DIDN'T FOLLOW UP HIS ADVANTAGE?

THE ANSWER MUST BE THAT HE THOUGHT I WAS DEAD!

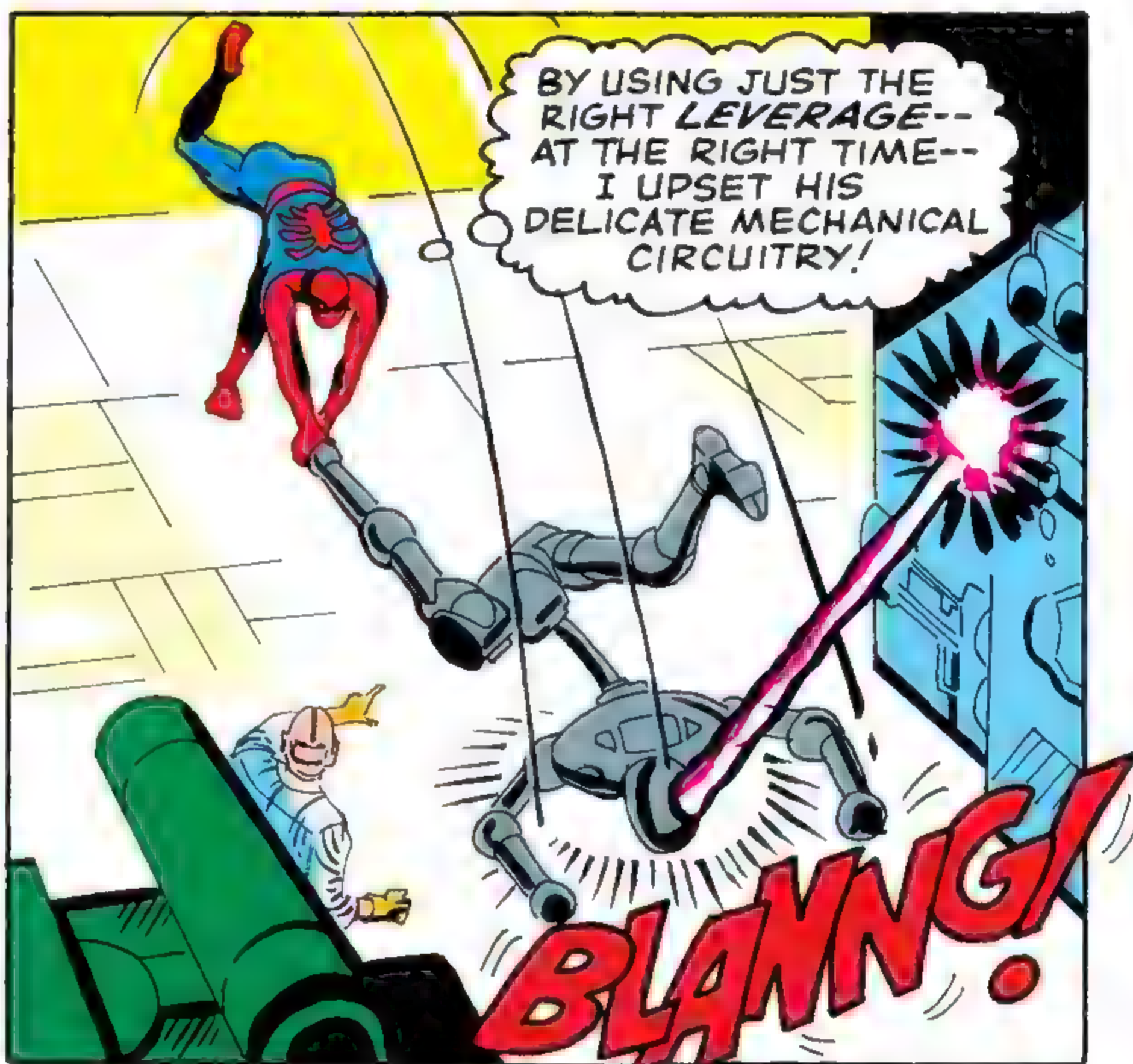
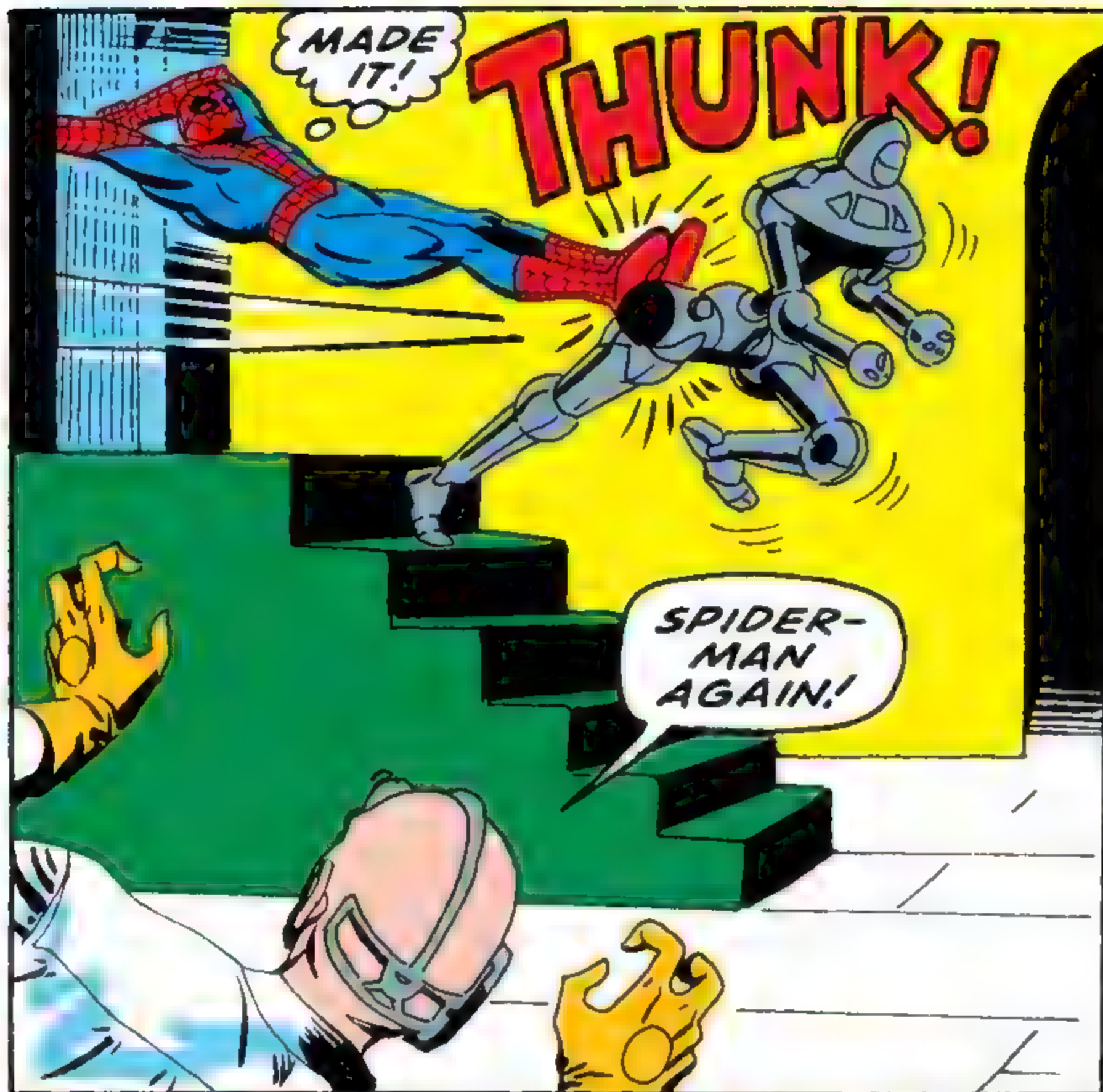
IF SO, HERE'S WHERE THAT METAL-SKINNED MISTAKE STARTS BELIEVING IN *GHOSTS*!

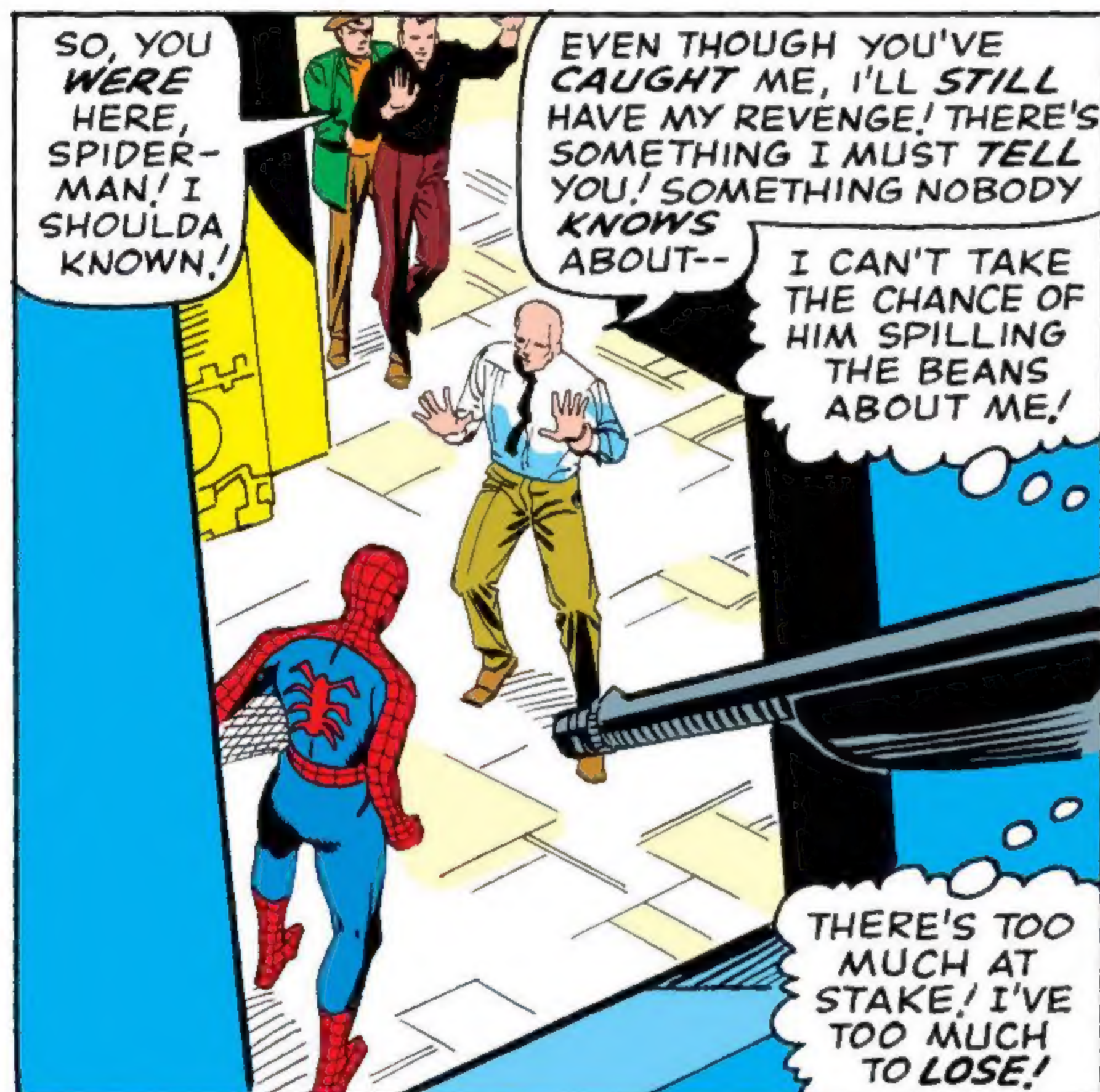
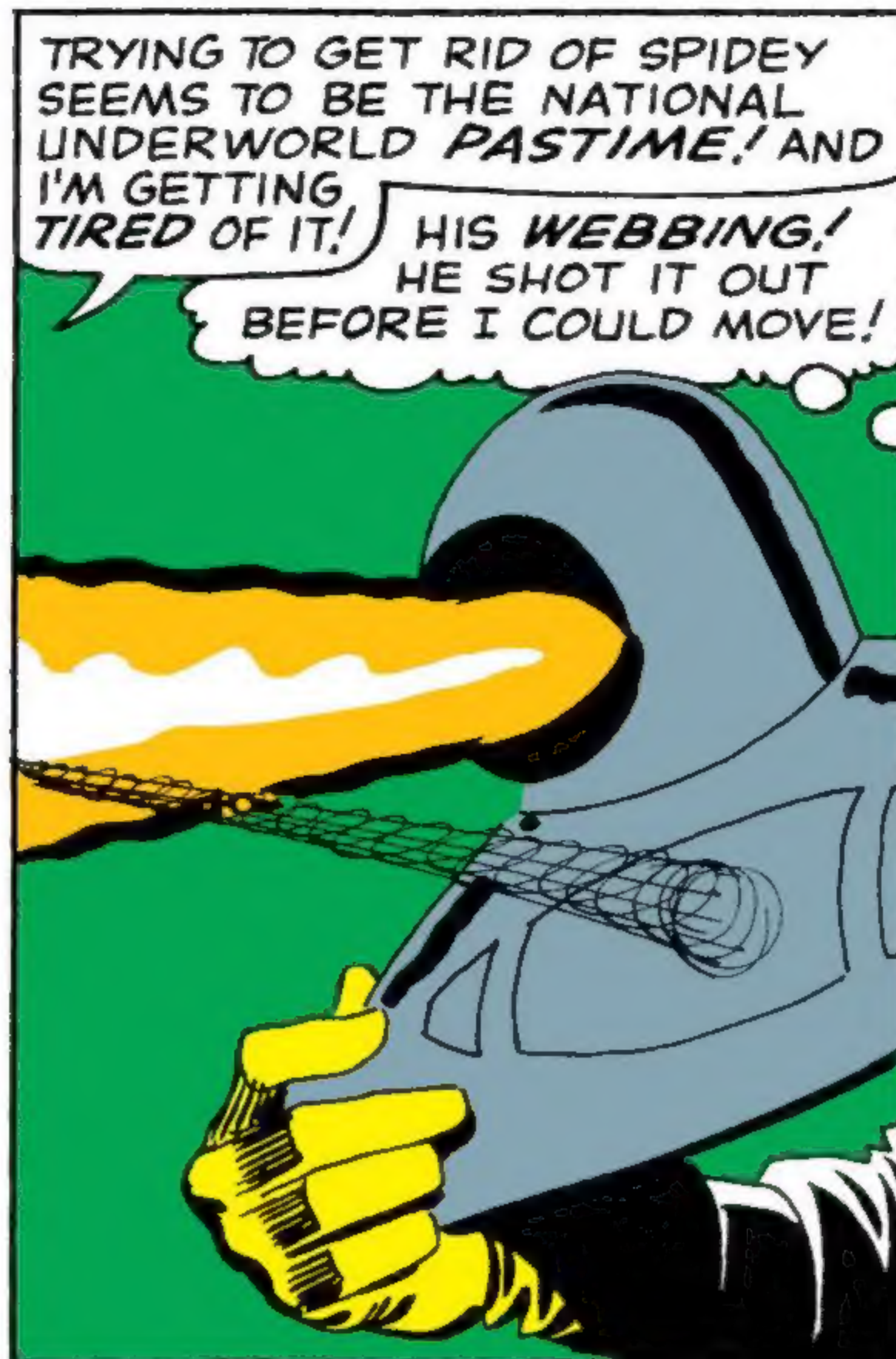
HE'S NOWHERE AROUND! MUST HAVE RETURNED TO THE HIDEOUT WHERE *PATCH* IS!

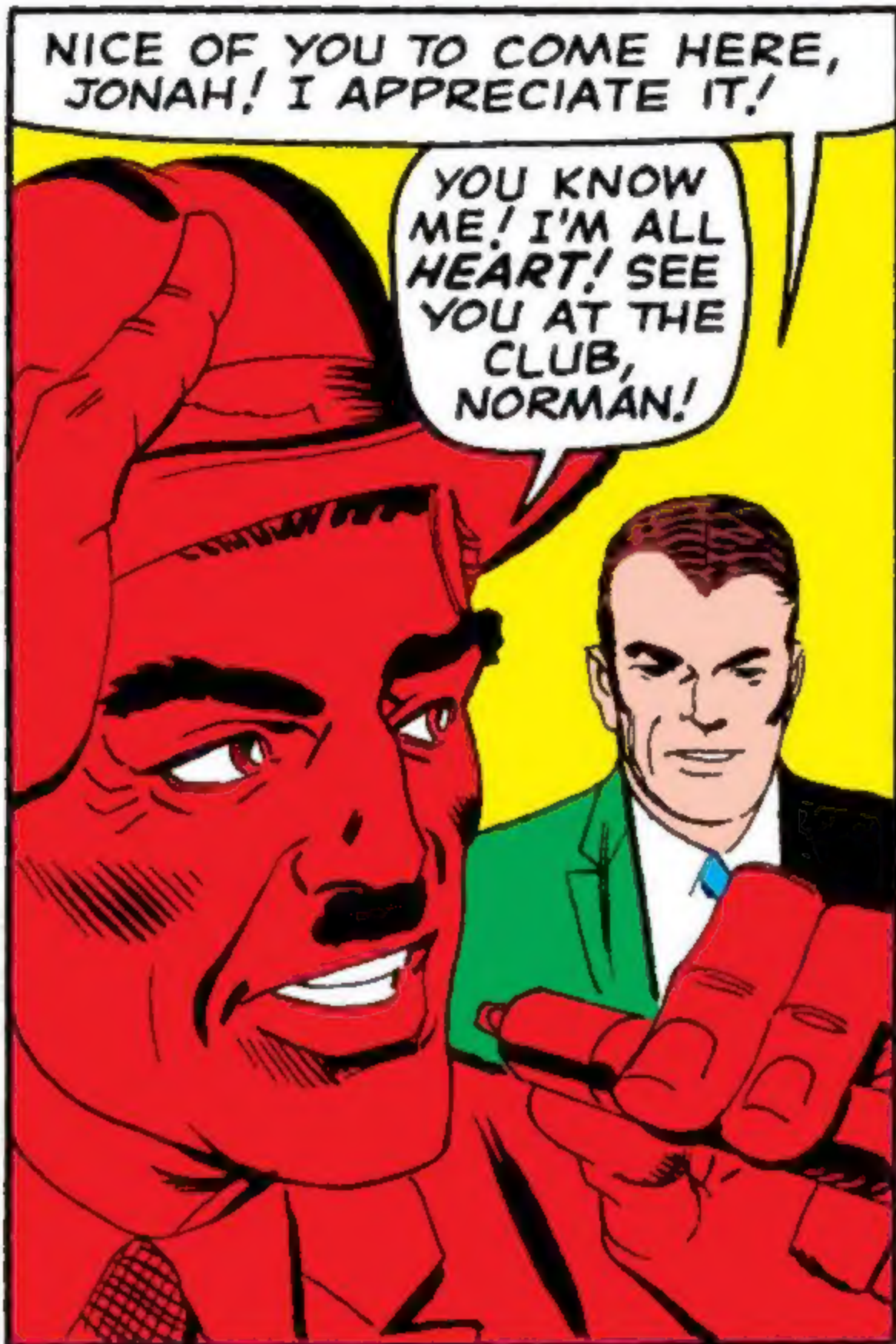
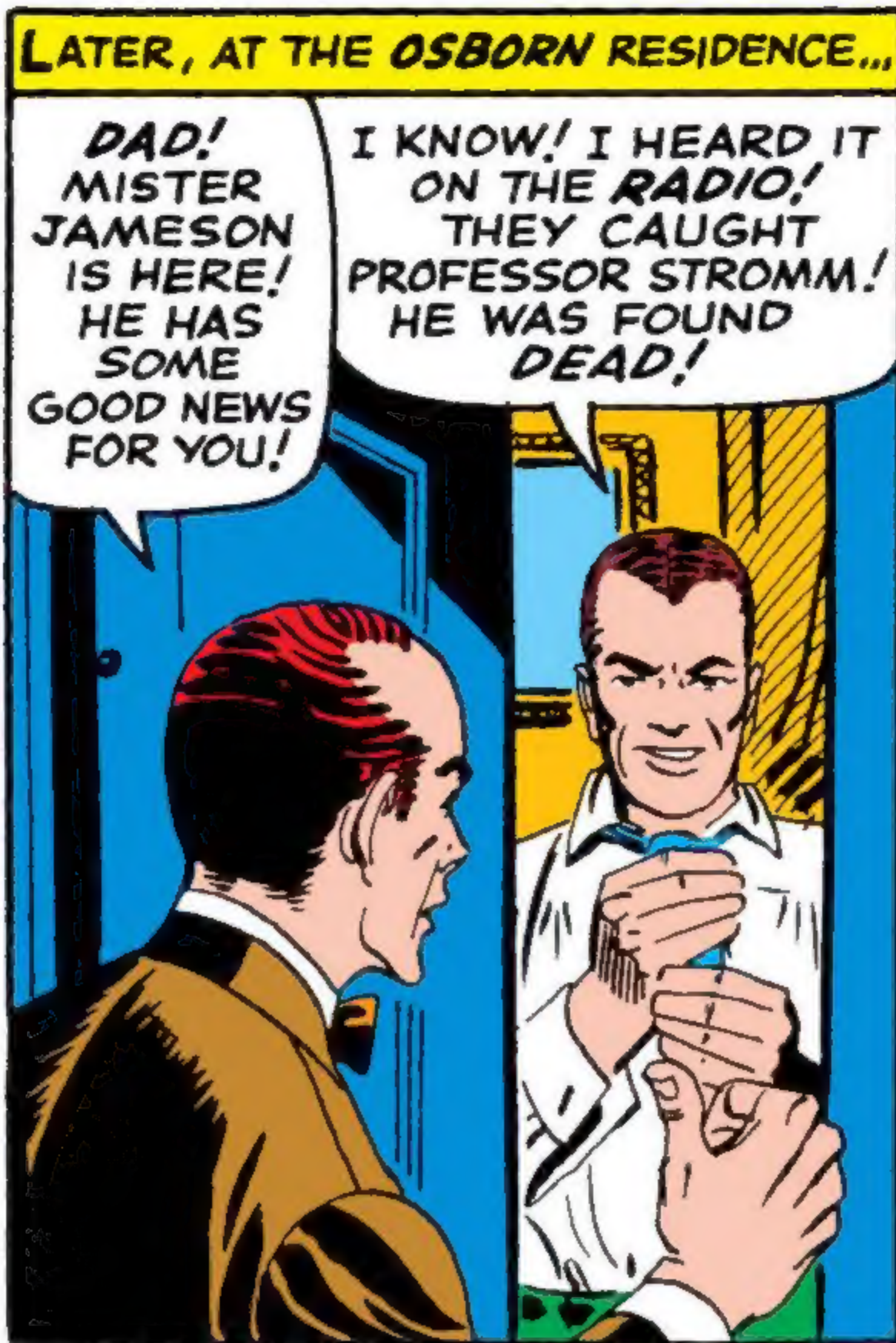


I WAS RIGHT! THERE HE GOES NOW!

I'VE GOTTA SWING THRU THAT STEEL DOOR BEFORE IT SLAMS SHUT!







THE SPIDER'S WEB



Dear Stan,

I'm a member of the M.M.M.S. (who isn't??), and I know it is my duty to grind any Marvel critic to dust with the power of the Hulk. But, for the good of Marvel, I must point out an inconsistency in your peerless epics. To wit: every time you introduce a new villain, he ALMOST defeats the hero—or heroes. But when said villain returns, in all subsequent issues, he has less strength, and the story less action. Doctor Octopus is an example. When he first appeared, he clobbered Spidey without trying—if Spidey hadn't managed to fuse two of Doc Ock's arms, it would have been the Web-head's end. But, in SPIDER-MAN #32, it took Spidey a short 10 panels to finish the doctor. So . . . please don't let the bad guys degenerate into creampuffs. In the eternal words of Daniel Klofmier—"Roses are red, Violets are blue; I'll take Marvels and leave nothing for you." Larry Rizzutti, 177 Grove Mt. Kisco, N.Y.

An award-winning verse if ever we heard one, Larry! But, don't worry, lad—our villains aren't turning into creampuffs—it's just that Spidey gets more battle-wise and more skillful with each passing day! In fact, he may some day be a match for Artie Simek himself!

Dear Stan,

As I was sitting in my living room after finishing a MARVELous dinner, and watching my boob tube, I got an interesting surprise. My co-idol (with Spidey) Soupy Sales was wrapping up his show with a man-at-the-door scene. In it, the man knocked at the door and asked Soupy for help. Why? He said, "My wife thinks she's Spider-Man!" I thought to myself, "It's got to be someone else." The bit continues with Soupy asking the man why he didn't take his wife to a psychiatrist. "Because," says the man, "I can't get her off the cardboard!" He then swings in one of your fantabulous pin-ups of Spidey, mounted on cardboard. It shows how widespread your fame is. After all, how many magazines get plugged by one of the country's biggest teenage idols?

Chris Gorley, 1160 Burke Ave.
New York, N.Y.

That's only the beginning, Chris! Wouldn't you be surprised to see L.B.J. standing in front of a Marvel pin-up at his next press conference? Well, just between us, tiger—so would we!

Dear Stan,

Spidey used to be number one on my list, but now I'll take the F.F. any day over Mr. Web-spinner. I have enough worries of my own without seeing Spidey get so psyched-out each month. First, it's Betty, then Aunt May—next, it'll be mid-term exams. Why don't you just turn Juggernaut loose on Spidey and get it over with? That'll calm him down. Your SPIDER-MAN mag is degenerating to the point where it is no longer fraught with the splendor and the charged essence of a super-hero thriller. Recently, poor Peter has been more of a tragic hero. Please restore Spidey to the level of greatness he achieved, for example, in his first battle with the Scorpion. Why can't he get squared-away with Betty, buy Aunt May a nice apartment in a condominium, and settle down to some good old life-and-death struggles?

Bill Dargan, 3502 Vista Drive
Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Great idea, Billy boy! Spidey vs. Juggernaut! Why didn't we think of that? And to make you happy, we'll

let it take place in that condominium you want Pete to buy! Howzat? But, don't hold your breath waiting—it may take a while for us to work out some small details (like trying to remember who Juggy is, and in which mag we've previously used him!). As for you preferring the F.F. to Spidey—you can't make us mad! We sort-of have a vested interest in that one, too—remember?

Dear Stan,

Congratulations! SPIDER-MAN #33 was indeed "one of the most thoroughly satisfying SPIDER-MAN sagas (we) have ever thrilled to," just like you said! I want to congratulate everyone credited with this marvelous issue. The art, which had dropped below peak excellence, was again at its original best. The story was one of the most dramatic and action-filled ever introduced into the pages of SPIDER-MAN. The lettering was better than usual—I couldn't find one mistake! I have only one request. Let Spidey reveal his secret identity. To whom? Why, to Dr. Connors, of course! He is the only one that I have ever seen in any Spidey adventure trustworthy enough for this responsibility. Also, it wouldn't put him in danger, since no one would have to know (except us!). I missed him as the Lizard-Man, but what I have seen of him in the last two issues convinces me that he is indeed one of Spider-Man's friends. How about it?

Fred Waiss, 876 S. Williams
Denver, Colo.

Poll time! Waddaya say, frantic ones? (A) Do you want to see more of Doc Connors (the Lizard-Man of ish #6, and more recently seen in #33)? And (B) Should Spidey divulge his secret identity to Connors? Let us know as soon as you can, because we hate to keep Freddie waiting!

Dear Stan,

There are no words in the English language to describe SPIDER-MAN #32. The suspense kept me on edge from the first page. Of course, every loyal Spidey fan knows that the transfusion referred to on page 4, panel 7, was from SPIDER-MAN #10, one of your greatest masterpieces. You guys had better start sending some annuals over here for us Canadians. I don't think I can bear missing MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS.

Paul McLoughlin
Canadian Forces, Soest, Germany

We can't bear anyone missing it either, Paul! Mostly because we're greedy! We've told our distributor to send a whole kaboodle of copies your way on the double, because any guy who can remember the two-year-old ish number of Spidey's transfusion deserves nothing but the very best!

Dear Stan,

It's after three in the morning and I should have been in bed four hours ago, but with my schedule I may not get another chance to write, and I *have* to comment on the latest issue of Spidey—"The Final Chapter." I'm quite sure that you'll get complaints on the story. Spidey saves himself and Aunt May by efforts which are not only super-human, but also super-Spider-Man. People will say that you've cheated, that you've filched Brand X's old trick of making the super-hero more super when it suits you, no matter how deus-ex-machina it makes the plot. But, here's one loyal fan who knows better. Couple of years ago I met

a girl and fell in love with her instantly. I didn't know why, then. I do now. She had a particularly tough childhood. Hundreds of times she could have given in to pain, fear, self-pity. But when I look into her eyes, I see a strength, an integrity to herself that, quite literally, won't quit. I stand in awe. After seeing a world full of whiners and quitters, you get sort-of used to it—it seems natural—and you feel astonished—actually stunned—to see something so beautiful you want to laugh and cry and go around telling everyone that you found what it is that makes life worthwhile. And then it dawned on me, that to be *able* to see and appreciate that integrity, one had to be capable of it oneself. So I have an idea what Spidey has been going through—and Namor, and Iron-Man, and some of the others. And I know that, while it may be fantasy, at the same time the stories are true, because there *are* people like that! Thanks, Stan. I wish there were a few more people like you guys around—the world's a little short on heroes these days.

Phil Castro, 3177 W. 5th St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Well, Phil, although we haven't personally performed too many super-heroic feats lately, we appreciate your kind sentiments, your good wishes, and your flair for the dramatic. Thanks, fella.

Dear Stan,

We have read all of Spidey's mags, and you have told us about his uncle (already dead) and his aunt (gravely ill), but you have never told us anything about his PARENTS. Did they die? Did Pete have any sisters? How are we supposed to know? Well, it's up to you what you write, but we hope you mention Pete's folks in some ish. At least show us what they looked like—or what they *look* like! Also . . . how many yellow sweaters does Pete have? He always wears a yellow one, and always a DIFFERENT one. Anyway, go finish next ish. The sooner the better, right? Richard Gonzalez and John Mumoz, 2102 Kearney Laredo, Texas

Right, amigos! We kinda dig your idea of filling Marveldom in with the facts concerning Pete's family—so, don't be too surprised if we find some way to weave 'em into a future tale . . . and thanks for the prod!

Dear Stan,

Being a member of the M.M.M.S., I just got the latest Bullpen Bulletin. I like the bulletin idea and wish you would send them out more often—like every month. I can't wait to hear more information on the "movie deal." I hope the M.M.M.S. soon puts out a few more records, sells extra stickers, and has elections. The idea of Marvel stories being reprinted is a good one. Thanks to MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS, I now have a complete Spider-Man file. I wish you would devote some future issues to "golden age" stories. They would sell very, very well. As for my favorite character, Spider-Man . . . it would be reasonable to have Aunt May die soon. After her demise, you could have Peter Parker's real parents return. Well, thanks for letting me bend your eyeballs. Yours till the competition come out with mags like Spider-Boy, the Fantastic Four-and-a-Half, and Dareangel, I remain,

Ron Wilshire, 204 Wilson
Clarion, Pa.

Nice hearing from you, Ron, even though you're trying to put the kibosh on poor Aunt May! What if we just lend her to the MILLIE THE MODEL mag for a while? Would that satisfy you, pal?

Dear Stan,

Wow! Did you see what I saw? Soupy Sales with a giant pin-up of Spidey! I've been with you guys for three years, but this really got me! Is Soupy a member of the M.M.M.S.? If so, what's his number? Are his wife and kids members, too? How about the stagehands? Soupy's dog? Do they read the rest of your comics? By the way, I dug ish #33 of SPIDER-MAN. I notice you've been using a lot of full-page pics lately, which is great, 'cause I love 'em. I can't wait until the next issue, with "The Return of Kraven the Hunter." Kraven's a fine villain—I'm glad you're not letting him go to waste.

Philip Palmer, 40 Riverview Ave.
Highland Park, N. J.

We don't let *anyone* go to waste, Phil! We're even trying to find a use for Irving Forbush! As for ol' Soupy,

we must have received half a zillion letters telling us how he used our wondrous web-spinner in a recent TV skit! We don't know whether Soupy or Spidey has the most fans, but we love ya all!

Dear Stan,

What have you done!? All these years, we of Cal Tech have assumed that when the greatest hero of all time graduated from high school, he would naturally go to the greatest college in the universe—Cal Tech! But—if you weren't the greatest story writer of all time, we'd say you made a grave mistake. EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY!?! NO, NO, A THOUSAND TIMES NO!!! Look—Spidey wants to go to the best engineering and science school in the country, right? He can win a thousand-dollar scholarship to any school in the country, right? If he leaves town and goes far, far away, maybe absence will make Betty's heart grow fonder, right? Well, we won't be vulgar and mention Cal Tech's eleven Nobel Prize winners, or the fact that Spidey could have all sorts of swingin' adventures in the Los Angeles area (swimming pools, movie stars, escaped movie monsters, the Great Smog Creature, etc.), or the fact that this is the cream of all schools, just as Marvel is the cream of all comics groups, or the fact that the *only* comics we have in the house library are Marvels. We won't mention those facts because, wonderful, intelligent, discerning people like you can see without being snowed by all this data that C.I.T. is the *only* place for Spidey. So please, *please*, PLEASE reconsider! Transfer him, flunk him, kidnap him, transplant all of New York City, do *anything*, but *please* get him out here. WE WANT SPIDEY! Naturally, we won't stop reading his stories, even if you don't, because Spidey is too good to pass up, even if he is going to E.S.U.! But really, Cal Tech is the only place for him. By the way, if and when the greatest super-hero of all time comes to the greatest school of all time, be sure he moves into the greatest student house on campus—Page.

The Page House Mob
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, Calif.

Boy! What a sneaky way to get a free plug for your dorm in our letters page, mob! Anyway, don't despair, men—there's still hope! Even if SPIDEY doesn't make it, the day may come when we send the HULK to college—and, if you've still got a vacancy—!

Dear Stan,

I decided to write you after finishing SPIDER-MAN #33 and tell you what I think of my favorite comics character. I have read every one of your mags (and even *bought* every one) since the conception of the Fantastic Four, which means I have never missed a Web-head adventure. I have watched him grow from a slightly inept, guilt-ridden, eleven-page nothing to a full comic-book-sized hero whose only fault was in his underdeveloped Peter Parker identity, to, in ishes #32 and #33, a well-rounded, versatile personality. In ish #33, that infamous snake-in-the-grass, J. Jonah Jameson, says it in the fourth panel of page 18: "What's gotten into Parker? He used to be such a milquetoast! Who wised him up?" Well, J.J., it was *life* that did it! And life will improve Spider-Man in the future—with an assist from Stan, of course. With hat on heart I salute you, Stan, for adding maturity to a character. Thou canst do no wrong.

Ken Kellerman, 17-32 166th St.
Whitestone, N.Y.

Thanks, Kenny! Thou knowest Stan can do no wrong! Stan knowests it! We knowest it! Now, if we can only convince his boss! (No, we don't mean merry Marty Goodman this time! We mean Mrs. Lee!)

NEXT ISH: Warning! It's gonna be a real kookie one! Our extra-powerful super-villain is a grand-new, brand-new pussycat! Also, you'll see the mysteriously sinister Mr. Osborn again, as our strange little plot grows ever more absorbing! To sum it up, SPIDER-MAN #38 is gonna be another Marvel Milestone issue, and we'll cry ourselves to sleep if you miss it! So, keep your webs untangled and face front—we'll be looking for you next ish! 'Nuff said!